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WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

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["International Observers Roundtable" program chaired by Mikhail Mikhaylov, IZVESTIYA observer; with Spartak Beglov, political observer of NOVOSTI, and Leonid Koryavin, head of the developing countries desk of IZVESTIYA]

May Day

[Text] [Mikhaylov] Good day, comrades. We meet today on the eve of May Day, the day of combat review of the international solidarity of working people. The face of the planet has altered radically in the 20th century. The first day of May has also become unrecognizable. Something that began once upon a time in Chicago, and was small in scale according to our modern concepts, has turned into a grand march of hundreds of millions.

In vast areas May Day is the holiday of peoples really enjoying the most important right of man--the right to work. In the Soviet Union a new Constitution--the fundamental law of a mature socialist society--is alive, at work and in action.

Let us glance, dear friends, just a little back into history. Our motherland today turns out more industrial production than the whole world was turning out in 1950, and the share of the socialist countries in world industrial production has doubled in this period. The countries which have united in CEMA yield about one-third of world production.

We and our socialist friends are celebrating May Day sure of our strength and full of determination to do everything to strengthen further the positions of world socialism. Over half of the world population is comprised of peoples who have liberated themselves from the colonial yoke since World War II. That is over 2 billion people. That is about 100 states. They have become states in their own right and have emerged in the world arena as the result of the collapse of the colonial system.

The three fundamental revolutionary forces of contemporary times are world socialism, the national liberation movement and the international proletariat, in whose vanguard communists march. At the World Trade Union congress, which ended in the last 10 days of April, one could see for oneself the scope of the organized workers movement. The WFTU embraces 100 million working people in its ranks. The representatives of trade unions of all continents who gathered for the congress in Prague presented a harsh accounting to capitalist society. Because of the exploiters, some 2 billion inhabitants of the earth suffer from lack of nourishment; there are 800 million illiterates and the army of unemployed and those who do not earn a living wage number in the dozens of millions.

The false protectors of human rights from Washington would like mankind to forget all these great defects of capitalism, but this is in vain. The class struggle of the international proletariat is becoming increasingly active. It is significant that the number of participants in strikes against the exploitative order increased from 7.7 million people in 1965 to 60 million in 1976.

The historical antagonism of labor and capital is spreading ever wider. And today the words pronounced by the leader of the world proletariat, Vladimir Ilich Lenin, on Red Square in Moscow on 1 May 1919, sound symbolic. Lenin said that the time would come when people will regard as extraordinary the documents and relics of the era of the capitalist system.

They will find it hard to imagine how trade in vital commodities could have been in private hands, how factories and plants could have belonged to private individuals, how one person could have exploited another, how people not engaged in work could have existed. The social progress of mankind and the renewal of the world are irresistible in the advance of history, particularly visible in the May Day review of international solidarity.

Every May Day has its distinctive marks. The CPSU Central Committee slogans for May Day 1978 stress to the utmost the need to struggle for the deepening of detente, for its dissemination to all continents and for exposing the intrigues of the forces of aggression and reaction. Detente gives mankind the opportunity to choose the path of peace. In present-day conditions there is no more important task, involving the fate of every person on earth, than the struggle for halting the arms race, for real disarmament.

[Beglov] It is no exaggeration to say that disarmament has been a paramount subject for the press of most countries in the world and for the many international forums which have been taking place this week. The question of how to curb the arms race was on the agenda of the Socialist International conference in Helsinki and also at the International Conference of Women's Organizations held in Vienna. The urgency of this task was stressed at the session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact countries in Sofia, whose participants in particular exchanged opinions on questions relating to the special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament which opens in New York at the end of May.

There were also appraisals in all the world's capitals of the results of the talks held in Moscow by Cyrus Vance, U.S. secretary of state, and above all on drafting a new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic arms.

Brezhnev's Komsomol Speech

But unquestionably the culminating point of this chain of events, which riveted the attention of the world public on the vitally important problem of our time, was Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech at the 18th Komsomol Congress, in particular the section devoted to the task of the further lessening of the danger of war.

Particular attention among political observers, many of whom called this part of the speech Brezhnev's program to curb the arms race, was given to the following points: first, the fact that this speech puts forward specific proposals directed at the full cessation of the further quantitative and qualitative growth of the arms and armed forces of the states commanding big military power.

[Koryavin] The headlines of foreign papers are typical. For instance, the West German RHEINISCHE POST presented the Soviet leader's speech in the following manner: Kremlin Proposal--Freeze on Level of Troops and Arms. The French L'HUMANITE stresses: Brezhnev's proposal is of such interest that it would be no exaggeration to call it vitally important. The Polish paper GLOS PRACY noted: The Soviet proposals on the eve of the special session of the UN General Assembly enrich the comprehensive program of the socialist countries in the field of disarmament.

[Mikhaylov] Yes, and May 1978 can thus be called the month of the first session of the UN General Assembly in history specially devoted to the limitation of arms, to disarmament. As Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stated, we wish the session success and will be actively promoting it.

[Beglov] Another point in Comrade Brezhnev's speech which drew the attention of foreign observers was the clearly and precisely expressed intention of the Soviet Union to back up its principled position with concrete actions. It was indeed precisely and clearly said that the Soviet Union will not commence production of the neutron weapon if the United States does not. The Soviet Union is prepared to work even further to bring the talks in Vienna to a successful conclusion.

Calling the false picture of the Soviet Union's intentions which is being presented in the West rubbish, Comrade Brezhnev stressed that it is not inoffensive rubbish but harmful, since it serves as a justification and a screen for really dangerous actions, leading to stepping up the arms race to a new level.

Let us use the following fact as an example: U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had not yet left Moscow, where he had been holding the latest round of talks on this agreement, when the military lobby in Washington, or the lobby of the so-called military-industrial complex, once again resumed its attacks on the agreement which has not yet become a reality. A certain advance was attained in Moscow. But, as Comrade Brezhnev stressed after his conversation with Vance, there are some positions of the U.S. side with which we can in no way agree. Work must be continued in order to overcome the remaining difficulties.

At the same time, when we speak of the opposition of this lobby of the military-industrial complex in the United States, we are talking of positions which still reflect the influence of the U.S. supporters of the doctrine of superiority, their desire to bypass the principle of taking into account the interests of the security of both sides. Many foreign observers stress that statesmen in the West have something to ponder: the good will of the Soviet Union--its determination to advance along the path of detente--urgently demand a reply in the same spirit. Against this background it is hard to evaluate as being anything other than unnecessarily hasty, say, the White House reaction to the proposal on the mutual renunciation of the neutron bomb as allegedly having no significance for the European Continent, as was said in Washington.

This radically contradicts the opinion of the Europeans themselves. For instance, I was recently in London for a conference of the British UN Association, at which delegates from all the cities and regions of England, Scotland and Wales very categorically demanded that their government should bring influence to bear on Washington aimed at putting an end once and for all to plans to create this--as the resolution emphasized--inhuman weapon.

So in Comrade Brezhnev's speech, the world has once again seen the determination of the Soviet Union to do everything possible to avert the outbreak of nuclear war and to insure that the peoples do not become the victims of nuclear strikes--neither the first or the last. It is precisely for the removal of this threat that the efforts of all states, particularly the nuclear ones, are first and foremost required. What is now essentially needed is for the governments on which this depends to make a very simple decision: They should call a halt to every buildup of armaments. This is the decision which our country urges all on whom rests responsibility for the fate of this and future generations to make.

Namibian Issue

[Mikhaylov] Throughout its history the Soviet Union has been and remains the true ally of the peoples struggling for liberation from the foreign yoke. In this connection, let us turn to the problem of Namibia--a problem which was discussed last week at a special session of the UN General Assembly.

I will ask you, Leonid Aleksayevich, to give us your views on this subject.

[Koryavin] Indeed, the special session of the UN General Assembly on Namibia is attracting the attention of the world public. The very fact that a special session to discuss the question of liberating Namibia from colonial and racist occupation has met at UN headquarters is significant in itself. The abolition in Namibia of one of the last strongholds of colonialism is an important step toward finally doing away with the shameful colonial system of imperialism.

That is why we see as just and legitimate the resolute demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia, for the proclamation of its genuine independence and the transfer of power to the African majority led by the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO.

Yet numerous facts indicate that the Western powers, the members of the NATO bloc, are in many respects not promoting--and are even actually opposing--a just solution of the Namibia problem, that they are giving political, economic and military support to the racist Republic of South Africa regime, despite repeated UN resolutions passed concerning that country.

When speaking of the problem of Namibia, it is necessary to draw attention to the fact that international imperialism is now altering its tactics in the awakened continents, including Africa. The West realizes that the times of gunboat diplomacy, the days when the fate of peoples could be controlled by the Winchester rifle of colonialism, are gone forever. And so they have begun to devise new methods and forms of domination --domination in the modern style, as it were. The neocolonialist method is to split the ranks of the struggling African peoples and divert them from the solution of their main, cardinal problems.

While the UN General Assembly session on Namibia was in progress in New York, a report came from Pretoria that the boss of the racist regime, Vorster, had accepted the plan of the Western powers for settling the Namibia crisis. That plan, as stated by certain news sources, envisages a cease-fire in Namibia and a cut in the numerical strength of South African forces. A reduction, you will notice, not the complete withdrawal of the occupation units which have illegally taken over foreign territory. I should remind you that the plan is silent on the very important question of Walvis Bay, which has been annexed by the South African racists. Moreover, they have turned it into a naval base, a colonial bridgehead from which at any moment the South African armed forces could launch an aggressive operation against Namibia.

Or another important detail: At the very time when the special session of the General Assembly is at work, the Pretoria regime has once again decided to demonstrate its policy of strength. We are referring to the holding of the biggest maneuvers in the history of the Republic of South Africa under the codename Mercury.

In view of all these facts, many political observers are naturally asking: Is not Vorster's acceptance of the Western plan just another maneuver by the racialists of the Republic of South Africa, who are trying by such moves to quell the wave of international indignation and avoid the main, cardinal aspects of solving the problem of Namibia?

Indisputably, we should conclude the question of the fate of that country on a note of optimism: Its right to self-determination and independence on the basis of respect for its unity and territorial integrity is just. There is no doubt that, under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization and with the support of the peace-loving forces of the world, the Namibian people will attain freedom and independence.

Brezhnev FRG Visit

[Mikhaylov] For the FRG, these are days of expectation of a great event: the official visit of the leader of the great Soviet power, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. It is hard to describe the scale of such expectation. It embraces everyone in the FRG--from government and the leaders of the political parties to the ordinary citizen; from the major representatives of business circles to the millions of working people; from prominent figures in the world of learning and culture to the various sections of the young. In the 5 years which have elapsed since Leonid Ilich Brezhnev first visited the banks of the Rhine, Soviet-West German relations have come far. Their significance is appreciated by the overwhelming majority of the West German population.

[Beglov] It seems to me, Mikhail Aleksandrovich, that it is impossible to overestimate the role of the great change in relations between the Soviet Union and the FRG in detente, generally regarding the transition from cold war to the easing of international tension. It is actually to this turning point that we owe the development of all-round relations between our two countries; and this process, begun with the conclusion of a treaty between the Soviet Union and the FRG on 12 August 1970, has had far-reaching results in other spheres of European politics and beyond Europe.

[Mikhaylov] Relations between the USSR and the FRG are marked by stability, combined with progress. Systematic efforts are being made on both sides to realize these aims. In the 5 years since the first visit of Leonid Ilich to the FRG considerable results have been achieved covering the most varied spheres: economics, science, culture.

As for political relations, their development along normal channels is possible only on the basis of the renunciation of claims to break up existing European borders, on the basis of realistic conclusions from the fact of the existence of two German states and on the basis of strict observance of the four-power agreement on West Berlin.

There are, of course, subjects on which the USSR and the FRG hold differing views, but this need not be an insuperable obstacle to the further buildup of mutually beneficial cooperation--if, of course, both sides strive for it and do not act in the opposite way.

It should be particularly emphasized that the FRG could say a weighty word in favor of curbing the arms race--a most important task of our time. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has repeatedly expounded on the course of the Soviet Union's relations with the FRG and the role of these relations with regard to the general international situation. In particular, he said in his speech on 25 April at the 18th Komsomol Congress: We will strive to insure that my imminent visit to the FRG will not only help to determine the outlook for further wide, mutually advantageous cooperation between our two countries--which is in itself important--but will also serve the cause of strengthening detente and universal peace, particularly in Europe.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's visit to the FRG will indisputably occupy a very prominent place in the world political calendar for the first half of 1978. But now let us take up one or two other topics.

One of them is a question that has cropped up continually in recent conversations of the international observers at the roundtable: the Near East. This is an unavoidable subject for us, too. I should just like to ask you, Leonid Alekseyevich, to throw light on the course of the most recent events and take these as the basis for your conclusions.

Middle East

[Koryavin] In speaking about the Near East problem one should point out that in fact diplomatic activity has increased in the past week. However, the guns in the Near East still did not fall silent when the diplomats began to talk. The latest reports from southern Lebanon show that Israel is continuing the armed provocations in that region and is exacerbating the atmosphere there.

After Atherton, assistant to the U.S. secretary of state, had been to the Near East, Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Moshe Dayan went to Washington for talks with the U.S. leaders and was then followed to the United States by Israeli Prime Minister Begin.

As can be seen, the diplomatic activity is extensive. However, it is important and reasonable to ask: What will its specific results be? Will they influence the improvement of the Near East climate? Will they be conducive to a settlement of the situation in that explosive region?

Before flying off to the United States, Dayan said that he was taking nothing new in his diplomatic bag. And as events show, Israel really is adhering to its old positions. It is continuing to reject a comprehensive settlement of the Near East problem which, as is known, is essentially that the troops of the Israeli aggressors must leave the illegally seized Arab territories and that the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine must be satisfied, up to and including the establishment of their own state.

Moreover, Israeli political figures and military have now been making a number of statements which point out that Israel does not intend to withdraw its troops from the West Bank of the Jordan or from the Gaza Strip, while in the Sinai it will leave behind a whole chain of strategic lines. Tel Aviv has again repeated the conditions for a separate deal with Cairo, having stressed that the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai Peninsula is permissible if the Israeli military settlements, protected by subunits of the Israeli armed forces, are maintained there. The Egyptian troops, however, have to be deprived of the right to be east of the Mitla and Jidi mountain passes--that is, Israel, under this same separate deal, will obtain a strategic advantage on the Sinai Peninsula.

In an interview with NEWSWEEK Lieutenant General Gur, former chief of general staff of the Israeli armed forces, said bluntly that Israel can leave the Sinai, apart from its airfields. This stresses once again the fact that Israel intends to maintain important strategic positions in the Sinai.

As we can see, Israel maintains its old positions. Moreover, it is hardening them. To the Arab territories occupied in 1967 new ones are now being added, the illegally seized lands in southern Lebanon, for example. The Israeli leaders have repeatedly stated that they intend to occupy southern Lebanon right up to the Litani River and to establish there yet another bridgehead for the struggle against the neighboring Arab states. It is noteworthy that the Litani River was spoken about as the natural northern border of the Israeli state at the first Zionist congress which was held in Basle in 1897. Now, as we can see, Israel is implementing the directions of the ideologists of Zionism.

Cairo's separate policy has not brought any practical results. The diplomatic activity by Washington is directed toward trying to lead the Israeli-Egyptian separate deal out of the labyrinth and to breath new life into it. However, as events show, Israel is proposing to Egypt an agreement which would force it to go along with the conditions of capitulation and to establish peace based on the demands made by Tel Aviv.

This, however, cannot relieve the tension in the Near East or bring genuine peace and security to that region.

PRC-Japanese Dispute

[Mikhaylov] To conclude our discussion, let us touch on another question: the conflict in the area of the Senkaku Islands between Japan and the People's Republic of China. Go ahead, please, Spartak Ivanovich.

[Beglov] We should probably remind our listeners of the essence of what has happened. Approximately 2½ weeks ago, on the morning of 12 April, about 100 so-called fishing vessels belonging to China entered Japanese territorial waters near the Senkaku Islands. Subsequently, Peking official representatives began to put forward the version that the entry was accidental, that apparently carried away by the chase after a large shoal of fish, the so-called fishermen did not notice that they had crossed the boundary.

It is not known what particularly valuable type of marine fauna the Chinese fishermen were hunting, but when the Japanese patrol vessels approached them, it transpired that the Chinese junks were carrying machineguns, and with the approach of the Japanese border guards there appeared on the shields of the machineguns the placards: These islands--meaning the Senkaku Islands--are our territory. Thus, the authors of the accidental incident version clearly have not got it right. Moreover, the flotilla of Chinese vessels made repeated entries into the same waters 5 days later.

It should be said that this incident perplexed the Japanese and even caused a certain embarrassment in Tokyo's ruling circles--after all they were actively preparing at just that time for the scheduled round of talks with Peking on the conclusion of a Japanese-Chinese peace and friendship treaty. Now Tokyo has begun to talk about cancelling the scheduled visits of leading Japanese officials to Peking, although Prime Minister Fukuda continues to assert that he sees no grounds for changing Japan's attitude toward the projected treaty.

And now reports have begun to appear in the press that several days before the incident the PRC ambassador in Tokyo, in talks with a Japanese politician, stated or rather made it clear that Peking is justified in being dissatisfied with the way Fukuda is handling matters concerning the talks on concluding the treaty. Here, perhaps, can be seen the most probable keys to the appearance of the fishing junks with machineguns, that is, Peking-style gunboat diplomacy. First, since the Senkaku Islands have been an object of dispute between the two sides for quite a time now, then as the Washington POST wrote, Peking intended to mark out its position before the conclusion of the treaty, that is, with the help of a show of force to compel Japan to recognize the PRC's claims.

Second, as the Japanese newspaper SENKY SHIMBUN shrewdly noted, Peking also had in mind thereby to show Japan the extent ond which the Chinese leadership's patience would not go in connection with the de to secure for itself as soon as possible a treaty with an anti-Soviet nature.

It is appropriate to remind our listeners that, at the insistence of the Chinese side, the draft treaty contains an article about the so-called struggle against hegemony. Peking does not hide the fact that this provision was included in the draft solely to impart an anti-Soviet nature to the treaty. However, it is precisely under the cover of loud propaganda about the struggle against hegemonism that Peking diplomacy has perpetrated more than one attack against the cause of peace and detente.

And now even the representatives of an influential grouping in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan itself are saying that Peking's recent act is an open infringement of Japan's sovereignty and the manifestation of hegemonism in practice. As it indeed is. As is known, this hegemonism which the Japanese have encountered is making itself felt on many meridians and latitudes. The Maoists, of course, are laying claim to immense territories of virtually all neighboring states. In 1962 Peking forcibly seized 400,000 square kilometers of Indian territory. Four years ago it occupied the Paracel Islands, the rights to which are disputed by several states in Southeast Asia.

In this light people in Japan cannot fail to ask themselves the question: Since Mao's heirs clearly intend to go further along the path of expansion and setting some peoples against others, where will this lead Japanese policy if it is bound to the chariot of Peking's great-power course?

[Mikhaylov] Permit me to end there our regular discussion of the international observers at the roundtable in the studio of All-Union Radio. Thank you for your attention, dear listeners. I wish you a happy May Day.

SOVIET PEOPLE CRITICIZE U.S. DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB

LD2917587 Moscow TASS in English 1559 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 29, TASS--The decision of the U.S. administration to defer neutron bomb production is no more but a half measure. This is the opinion of all Soviet people. They demand full renunciation of production of this inhuman weapon.

The deferment by the U.S. administration of the neutron bomb production does not remove the threat of a thermonuclear war, a TASS correspondent has been told by participant in the Second World War Ivan Bogdanov from Ashkabad, Soviet Central Asia. Such a decision does not guarantee peace on earth. We, he stressed, wholly and entirely back the new program of struggle for ending the arms race put forward at the 18th Komsomol Congress by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"To live in peace, to never hear the thunder of war is a sacred desire of all Soviet people. Therefore we take so close to heart and understand the purposeful activities of the CPSU and the Soviet state aimed at eliminating the threat of a thermonuclear holocaust," said Doctor Nikolay Ratiyev from Voronezh, center of the Russian federation. "There can be only one decision acceptable to all peoples: to renounce for all time the production of new types of the terrible weapon of mass destruction. The Soviet Union advances exactly such a realistic proposal on mutual renunciation of neutron weapon production."

UNITED STATES

BEGIN ARRIVES IN U.S.; TO MEET WITH CARTER, VANCE

LD0107347 Moscow TASS in English 0726 GMT 1 May 78 LD

[Text] New York, May 1, TASS--Israel's Prime Minister Menahem Begin has arrived on a visit in the United States. He said at the airport that the plan of his visit envisages meetings with President of the United States Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

CARTER STATEMENT DENYING PALESTINIAN HOMELAND REPORTED

LD3018447 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Text] London, 30 April--In an interview published in the London SUNDAY TIMES, U.S. President J. Carter said, regarding a Near East settlement, that he opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state. "I have never favored an independent Palestinian state. I still don't favor one and I have no intention of deviating from that position," he stressed. The President unambiguously supported Israeli Prime Minister Begin's plan to grant the Palestinian Arabs only a "local self-government". The plan does not provide for a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied lands.

The statement by the U.S. President, which was made on the eve of Begin's arrival in the United States, shows again that the United States continues to completely and utterly support the expansionist policy of Tel Aviv, for which it ignores the rights of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination.

TIMOSHKIN NOTES BIASED NATURE OF U.S. POLICY ON MIDEAST

LD2822177 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary]

[Text] This week President Carter held another press conference. In response to journalists' questions, the President was meticulous in his remarks concerning the strategic doctrine of the United States in its Middle East policy. To be precise, President Carter most firmly stated: I am fully confident that our basic concepts on the Middle East question support long-lasting and firm security and peace for Israel.

If this statement is translated into the language of Washington, it appears that Israel is not the aggressor or the occupier of vast Arab areas and is not the nation which usurped the national and legitimate rights of 3 million Palestinian people.

This proves that the United States completely supports Israel's annexation policy. According to Tel Aviv's affirmation, this policy is designed to guarantee Israel's security. In other words, the U.S. policy which is based on comprehensive support of the Israeli aggressor is, if we take President Carter's expression, a long-term and firm policy.

This is what the U.S. President said to the entire world and there is no need for any illusions about it. Naturally, you may say that there is nothing new in this scandalous pro-Israeli statement by the U.S. President. This is true, but one must think again, because there are prominent and powerful Arabs who still hope for a change in U.S. policy in their favor. They have tirelessly affirmed that Washington will be qualified, in the future, to play a balanced role in dealing with the Arabs and their issues.

Let us return to President Carter's statement at his recent news conference in Washington. In explaining the validity of the decision to sell U.S. military aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Carter expressed the deep conviction that moderate Arabs must be treated fair and amicably and, in return, the Arabs must proclaim their friendship, i.e., for the sake of the U.S. supreme interests and Israel's interests.

This is how the U.S. President understands the essence of a balanced attitued toward the Arabs and their issues. He looks at Arab problems from the perspective of long-term U.S. interests in the Middle East. He also views these problems from the Israeli aggressor's position which is well known to the entire world. President Carter continued by saying that the two Arab countries mentioned should give Washington a written affirmation that these planes will never be used under any circumstances against Israel.

I remind you that As-Sadat has made this promise frequently. As for Riyadh, it agreed not to deploy the U.S. planes near the Israeli borders. But this is not enough for Washington. Washington wants to bind Riyadh and Cairo with written commitments concerning this matter. President Carter calls this a balanced, good and friendly manner on the part of the United States toward its allies and friends in the Middle East. He means Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

President Carter voiced his strong belief that both Israel and Egypt want peace and that they show a firm intention to make progress in this direction, but is it possible to seriously discuss peace between the wolf and the lamb. I beg you to forgive me for making this comparison but it is obvious that the strong one is armed to the teeth while the weak is robbed even of his own weapon.

DAYAN TALKS WITH VANCE LEAVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS UNRESOLVED

LD282200Y Moscow TASS in English 2115 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Washington, April 28, TASS--The foreign minister of Israel, Moshe Dayan, has completed his two-day negotiations with Cyrus Vance, secretary of state of the United States, and other officials. As noted by the press, the main subject of the negotiations was the resumption of the deadlocked separate Israeli-Egyptian negotiations in the Middle East. However, judging by the statements of Cyrus Vance and Moshe Dayan, this problem remains unresolved.

After the meetings with the Israeli foreign minister, Cyrus Vance stated that Israel had not changed its stand on territorial questions since the visit to the United States of Prime Minister Begin this March. He also stressed that Israel had by no means changed its interpretation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

During the negotiations with the U.S. secretary of state, Dayan tried to convince the latter of the need to consider "separately' in the American Congress the questions of aircraft deliveries to Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, says the Washington POST. It is common knowledge that in its attempt to show a kind of "balanced" approach to the Middle East problem and, thereby curry favour with the Arabs, the Carter administration had advanced a proposal to sell jet fighters to these countries "in one package", which aroused vehement opposition of the Israeli lobby on Capitol Hill.

As stressed by American political commentators, Israel strives to "seize" its share of the ninety planes and convince the Americans at the same time not to sell arms to the Saudis and Egyptians.

The Washington POST writes today that the pro-Israeli lobbyists are besieging ever more persistently the White House and the State Department. The paper says that next week they will be joined by the prime minister of Israel, M. Begin, who is to come to the United States.

ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE REINFORCED BY U.S. SUPPORT

LD291639Y Moscow in English to North America 0030 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Washington talks involving the Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, have confirmed the absence of any real progress on settling the Middle East conflict. Shortly before his visit, Moshe Dayan admitted that he was not going to bring any new proposals along. Here is comment from our news analyst Vadim Sergeyev.

The Carter administration's Middle East policy appears to be in deadlock. The Israeli prime minister, Menahem Begin, is expected to come to the United States in the near future. The special American envoy, Alfred Atherton, again visited the Middle East a short while ago and the purpose of all that diplomatic activity is to get off the ground the separate talks between Israel and Egypt. The present administration is building high hopes on them. As you may remember, when the Carter administration came to power it announced its intention to stop encouraging separate deals and shuttle diplomacy. At that time, the White House promised that it would work for a comprehensive Middle East settlement and would do everything possible to convene the Geneva peace conference by the end of 1977. However, those promises were not backed by any concrete action. Late last year Washington supported the separate talks and revitalized shuttle diplomacy. As for Geneva, American leaders hardly mention it at all nowadays.

As a result, Israel has adopted an even more rigid attitude toward the Arab countries, tough as it already was. Israeli leaders maintain they are not going to get out of the captured Arab territories, in particular, the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip. They have also stepped up their efforts to build new Jewish settlements on those lands. And they stubbornly refuse to make concessions to Egypt, their only partner in the separate talks, saying that Israel is going to keep northern Sinai.

Washington realizes that the failure of the separate talks will strike a body blow at United States prestige, that is why it's striving to create a semblance of pressure being put on Israel to get it to become more flexible. Yet such maneuvers produce no results, and chiefly because, on the whole, Washington continues to keep to the pro-Israeli stand and Israel was quick to take advantage of this. Under cover of separate talks, Israel committed large-scale aggression against Lebanon, and despite the Security Council Resolution Number 425 demanding a pull out of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon, Israel is in no hurry to comply with it. And Israel has also launched an offensive on the diplomatic front. The Begin government announced that it had the right to interpret the Security Council Resolution Number 242 in its own way. It claimed that the resolution did not apply to the Israeli pull out from the West Bank of the River Jordan or the Gaza Strip.

It's unlikely that Israel would have dared to display such highly independent political and military activities if it did not feel United States support, and indeed, in the current fiscal year Israel accounts for 40 percent of American credits for foreign military aid and for 97 percent of grant military aid. American weapons allegedly supplied exclusively for self-defense were widely used in the attack on Lebanon. The latest American fighter plane, the F-15 took part in air raids on Lebanese populated areas for the first time. Israel has also used American cluster bombs, causing heavy civilian casualties, and it's with the aid of American weapons that Israel is keeping the captured Arab lands. That's the more balanced approach toward the Middle East situation in actual fact, the approach that is much talked about in Washington.

The United States administration, holding forth about human rights so much, makes believe it fails to notice the most crude violation of the rights of the Palestinian Arabs, driven out of their homeland. Undoubtedly this United States attitude encourages Israel's t ugh policy. Dayan's visit to the United States has again demonstrated that the Israeli leaders don't want to take the Palestinian problem into account, yet there can be no (?just) settlement without solving it. King Husayn of Jordan stressed this point again the other day.

United States support for the separate talks is delaying the settlement of the conflict rather than bringing it nearer. The way to achieve a comprehensive solution lies through the Geneva peace conference attended by all the parties concerned. This way was mapped out in the joint Soviet-American statement of last 1 October, and the United States, as a cochairman of the Geneva conference, bears serious responsiblity for thwarting progress towards its resumption. The events of the past few months indicate that the road to a Middle East peace settlement lies through Geneva and not through separate talks. A lasting and durable peace in the area cannot be established without a complete Israeli pull out from all the occupied Arab lands and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs.

U.S. CONGRESS DIVIDED ON PLANE SALES TO MIDDLE EAST

LD291558Y Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Washington, April 29, TASS--The U.S. administration officially presented to Congress on Friday separate proposals on the sale of warplanes to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. A statement to this effect was made at a White House press conference by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

It is noteworthy that the point at issue is no longer a package plan, which the administration published last February, but separate deals according to which Israel is to receive seventy-five F-16 aircraft and fifteen F-15 aircraft, Saudi Arabia-- sixty F-15 aircraft and Egypt--fifty F-5 aircraft.

The procedural manoeuvre of the administration is a serious concession to the pro-Israeli lobby in the U.S. Congress and pressure from the Israeli Government. The examination of the plan for the sale of warplanes not in package, on which the President repeatedly insisted, but separately, will enable numerous supporters of Israel in Congress to approve promptly the proposal on the sale of aircraft to Israel and concentrate criticism against the sale of the latest F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia, which is fiercely opposed by the pro-Israeli lobby and Tel Aviv. The sale of 50 obsolete F-5 fighter planes to Egypt is not expected to cause any serious objections in Congress.

The Congress has 30 days at its disposal for approving or declining the proposals on the sale of aircraft. It is expected that acute political struggle on this question will continue in Congress throughout the whole of May.

Aircraft Deal Favors Israel

LD301708Y Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

["In Order To Please Tel Aviv"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, April 30, TASS--The U.S. Government once again reaffirmed its course towards an unlimited military support for Israel, which enables Tel Aviv to frustrate with impunity the search for a just settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Speaking at a meeting with pressmen, the United States President Carter stated that the American policy of deliveries of arms to the Middle East envisages paying the highest attention to the needs of Israel, as the President emphasized. The deliveries are in a fairly large degree determined by Israel itself.

In other words, Israeli aggressors were given a free hand by Washington in the choice of types and quantity of American arms. In result, Tel Aviv's arsenal now includes the most up-to-date military hardware which is lavishly supplied from across the ocean. According to the press, over the past several years the U.S. patrons of Israel provided it with more than seven billion dollars worth of weapons. Under the pressure of the Zionist lobby, Washington is now negotiating with Israel for adoption of a long-term programme of further military support to the tune of a total of 13.5 billion dollars.

In the nearest future, Tel Aviv will have another 75 F-15 fighters and 15 F-16 newest fighters. The proposal to sell them was tabled [introduced] in Congress by the White House recently.

Touching upon the government's intention to supply at the same time 60 F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia and fifty outdated F-5E fighters to Egypt, President Carter emphasized that this deal on the whole favours Israel.

It was clear from the President's pronouncements that the deliveries of aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt are designed to consolidate those Arab regimes which together with Israel are assigned the role of bearers of U.S. interests in the Middle East.

EFFECTS OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS ON ASIA EXAMINED

LD301258Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Public attention in Asia is focused on the forthcoming visit to China of Zbigniew Brzezinski. Ella Zhukova comments: The FRANCE PRESSE news agency reports that Brzezinski is going to have consultations with the Peking leaders that will cover, among other questions, the general strategic interests of China and the United States as outlined in the 1972 Shanghai communique. Let us now recall the contents of this document.

Apart from dealing with bilateral Sino-American agreements, the communique touches upon Asian issues involving the interests of other countries. What is more important, however, is that the signing of the communique served as a French stimulus to launching another round of American military buildup in Asia. With Peking's secret approval, the Pentagon got down at the time to its plan of building a network of military bases in the Indian Ocean, of which the Diego Garcia base is the biggest.

Washington took into account the Shanghai communique when it developed its Pacific Doctrine. The doctrine called for preserving American military presence in the area and activating aggressive political blocs--the American-Japanese security treaty first and foremost.

When applied to Asia that meant--as Washington officials claimed, referring to statements by Peking leaders--that China would take no steps that might lead to undermining the United States' position in Japan, Thailand and in the Philippines.

The recent American military doctrine for Asia is also drawn up with an eye to the position of the Peking leaders with regard to Asian problems. It was laid down by Defense Secretary Harold Brown in his speech in Los Angeles on 22 February. The defense secretary made it clear that instead of the announced withdrawal from Asia, the United States planned dangerous military preparations in the region. The American ruling quarters regarded them as instruments for holding back the national liberation movement in Asia.

This gives us some additional food for thought. When he Carter administration took office in Washington certain Asian observers hoped that it would shift accent in its Asian policies. Predictions were made that preference would be given to relations with China.

The predictions, however, failed to come true. The Asian diplomatic circles point out that in the lobby of the American Congress the views have taken the upperhand of the group who favors Sino-American special relations. This explains why President Carter's visit to India early in January, as the HINDUSTAN TIMES wrote, helped little in lessening differences between India and the United States on international issues. The Bombay weekly BLITZ wrote at the time that if the United States wanted to improve its relations with India it had to reverse its policies in South Asia and close in particular its military bases in the Indian Ocean.

There are other indications that Sino-American contacts are damaging the interests of third countries. The Shanghai communique mentions the issue of Kashmir, though the United States and China bear no relation to the area. The Indian official circles regarded the fact as interference in India's domestic affairs. Nevertheless, the Peking leaders have lately referred to the Shanghai communique as a document allowing them to interfere in Kashmir problems; statements to the effect were made by the vice premier of the State Council, Teng Hsiao-ping.

At this point it would be appropriate to ask why Peking links its Asian policies with the maintenance of American military presence. The Indian central news service answers by saying that China's present-day military potential is not strong enough for Peking to establish control of the region. So far China is relying on the American strength in Asia as an offset to the people's movement for peace and independence but sooner or later she hopes to realize her own expansionist plans as regards the neighboring countries. The present demonstration of China's strength in the vicinity of Senkaku Islands, in the Japanese territorial waters, or the land of the Chinese troops on Paracel Islands, which several countries are laying claim to, are impressive illustrations to the Chinese schemes.

Brzezinski's visit will be undertaken against the background of all these events. It would be premature to speak of its results. One thing is obvious, however; no one in Asia would object to normalizing realtions between the United States and China if no damage is done to the interests of third nations.

CHINA

PRC'S BORDER POLICIES BASED ON FEIGNED DISPUTES, EXPANSION

Moscow NOVOSTI DAILY REVIEW in English 17 Apr 78 pp 1-3 WA

[Commentary by K. Andreyev, candidate in history: "The Border Question in Peking's Expansionist Policy"]

The policy of the present Chinese leaders with regard to China's borders with the adjoining states is a factor which seriously compounds the situation in the Far East, South and Southeast Asia.

The border policy figures prominently in the expansionist strategy of Peking which is seeking to enlarge the territory of China at the expense of its neighbours. It won't be an exaggeration to say that at different times the Chinese Government declared almost all the borders of the PRC as "disputable" or "disputed". In the past more than twenty years, armed incidents, conflict situations and seats of tension emerged periodically on China's various borders.

The Peking leadership has settled the border issues with some adjoining countries such as Burma, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia, by signing appropriate agreements. With half of them agreements were signed after armed clashes or after a sharp deterioration of relations. Up till now Peking still calls in question China's borders with some neighbouring states, such as India, the Soviet Union, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The stretch of the borders which are viewed by the Chinese leaders as "disputable" makes up half of the total length of China's ground frontiers.

But as it is shown by China's relations with Burma and Mongolia, the border agreements fail to prevent the borders of these countries with China from becoming zones of tension and arenas of armed clashes. The border between the Mongolian People's Republic and China, which stretches for 4,700 kilometres, was fixed in the treaty signed by the two states in 1962. But ever since the situation on the Chinese-Mongolian border has remained tense. Since the late 1960's, Radio Peking has been claiming in its broadcasts in the Mongolian language that China must not recognise the validity of the treaty of 1962 because it was signed by Mao Tse-tung's enemies. These broadcasts also contain concrete territorial claims to Mongolia. In recent years the Chinese authorities have more than once engineered border provocations and tried to meddle in the internal affairs of Mongolia. Having proclaimed its frontiers with Mongolia to be "an outpost of the fight against revisionism", Peking is concentrating troops in the border districts and stepping up their militarisation.

As far as Burma is concerned, the situation on the border determined by the treaty of [illegible] worries the Burmese Government. Repeated armed [illegible] penetrate into Burma across the border from the PRC's territory, spread [illegible] in the [illegible] and carry out military and [illegible] actions.

It [illegible] that in the Peking [illegible] the existing government [illegible] the [illegible] "[illegible]" in the [illegible] countries (except Burma). Moreover, [illegible] posed by [illegible] that it immediately [illegible] of a conflict, [illegible] in the case of the [illegible] provoked [illegible] between the [illegible] about 7,000 [illegible].

Before 1960 Peking made no statements on any territorial claims to the Soviet Union. Furthermore, it was repeatedly acknowledged that the territorial integrity of the two countries was respected and that it was determined by the treaties the force of which was not negated by anybody. All of a sudden, in 1964 the Peking leaders handed to the Soviet Union maps on which quite a number of areas on Soviet territory were shown as Chinese without any legal grounds and declared to be so-called "disputable regions". It is in these "disputable regions" that Chinese troops engineered some large-scale border provocations, among them the provocations on the Damansky Island on the Ussuri River and in the Dzhalanashkol district on the territory of Soviet Kazakhstan, but they were hurled back from the territory of the USSR.

The Soviet Government did and continues to do all in its power to avoid the emergence of border conflicts and to settle the border issue with the PRC on the basis of the existing Russian-Chinese border treaties. But the Chinese leadership is stubbornly insisting on such preconditions for a border settlement which are absolutely unacceptable to the Soviet side. It demands a recognition by the USSR of the so-called "disputable regions" on Soviet territory, withdrawal of Soviet troops from them, and so on. An acceptance of such demands of Peking would mean a de-facto acknowledgement of the validity of the Maoists' claims. This would give ground to fresh territorial claims to the Soviet Union and to similar territorial claims to other countries neighbouring on China.

The present Chinese leadership views the existence of "unsettled" borders and "disputable" regions as a kind of a regulator of relations with the adjoining countries and of the international situation in Asia as a whole. Peking holds the view that the border conflicts give it a chance to aggravate the situation at any moment and to develop it into a clash with one or another neighbour state. In the view of the Chinese leaders, the existence of the border issue and of the threat of armed conflicts which always accompanies it is an effective lever of political pressure. With the use of it, the Peking government is trying to pressurize the adjoining states in order to make them pursue a political line which would meet the Maoists' hegemonistic aspirations. The Peking leaders use the "disputable" borders as a pretext for laying ever new territorial claims to China's neighbours and even for resorting to force to realize them. Last but not least, the Peking leaders make use of the artificially fanned border issues for creating in China a political situation they need, for fanning nationalism and great-Han chauvinism, and for justifying the total militarisation and the policy of the "preparation for inevitable war".

PRC SENSITIVE TO SOVIET CRITICISM OF NEUTRON BOMB

OW2806347 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 26 Apr 78 OW

[Mulatov commentary: "The Chinese Leaders' Warm Endorsement for America's Neutron Bombs"]

[Text] NCNA on 25 April has again revealed the new Chunghanhai leader's (?endorsement) of the mass killing weapon. One can draw at least three conclusions from the NCNA article, "USSR, U.S. Controversy Over Neutron Bombs." First, Mao Tse-tung's successors are hoping that the United States will equip its Armed Forces with the neutron bomb as quickly as possible; second, President Carter's decision to postpone production of the neutron bomb has disappointed Peking's leaders; and third, they are uneasy over Soviet press criticism of the U.S. plan to produce the neutron bomb.

[words indistinct] people in central and Western Europe, in socialist countries and the United States, have vehemently protested against the Pentagon's plan to equip NATO troops with the neutron weapon. While trying its utmost to slander the Soviet Union's stand on the neutron bomb, NCNA tried to disguise the attempt by the chieftains of the U.S. military-industrial complex to step up the arms race. However, this is useless.

Commenting on the neutron bomb in his address to the 18th Komsomol Congress Comrade Brezhnev said: Our position on this issue is simple and comprehensive. It is not too late to reach an agreement between the countries concerned on not producing neutron weapons to free mankind forever from the threat of this weapon.

NCNA asserted that the neutron bomb is merely a shield against the Soviet spearhead. Peking's efforts to defend the imperialists by supplying them with a reason to intensify the arms race and increase their military strength only causes fear and doubts in the international arena. Are the Chinese people interested in this? Of course not. The people of China, the Soviet Union, the United States and other countries do not want such a dangerous atmosphere. Nevertheless, judging from the NCNA 25 April article, to the Chinese leaders, the interests of the U.S. military-industrial complex are the most valuable thing in the world.

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OFFICIAL GREETS CHINESE ON MAY DAY

OW301958Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 30 Apr 78 OW

[Talk by Krivtsov, vice chairman of the Central Council of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society and deputy director of the Far East Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences--in Russian fading into Mandarin translation]

[Excerpts] One May is a festive day of labor and peace. As usual, this year many countries are celebrating the occasion. Today, working people throughout the world unify in the struggle against imperialism and in the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism. The Soviet people celebrate May Day with important economic and cultural achievements.

On the 1 May International Labor Day, the Soviet people are again showing their sincerity in holding the policy of peace and friendship with the peoples of other countries and their belief in the principle of proletarian internationalism. In the future, the CPSU and the Soviet people will continue to follow the Leninist tradition of providing effective support to comrades-in-arms who are struggling for a great, noble and common objective. The CPSU and the Soviet people will always be loyal to the proletarian internationalist cause, one of the major Marxist-Leninist principles. Soviet communists believe it is the sacred duty of a Marxist-Leninist to defend proletarian internationalism, the communist parties of various countries, and the venerable weapon of the entire workers' movement.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government, loyal to proletarian internationalism, are making every effort to restore the genuine neighborly and friendly relations with the People's Republic of China. The world clearly acknowledge the many Soviet initiatives to normalize Soviet-Chinese relations. I would like to remind you that the third conference of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, held in February 1978 in the USSR, again expressed the desire to restore friendly exchanges with the Chinese-Soviet Friendship Association.

On 24 February 1970, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium wrote a letter to the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress. The letter demonstrated the USSR's concern for the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has suggested that the two countries issue a joint statement on the principles of bilateral relations, saying that both sides will build relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence, firmly adhering to the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, and nonuse of force. Implementation of the Soviet proposals will stablize relations between our countries and will be in the interests of the Chinese people, the Soviet people, and world socialism.

On 2 November 1977, Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said: There is no point in trying to guess how Soviet-Chinese relations will evolve in the future. I would merely like to say that our repeated proposals to normalize them still hold good. The interests of the peoples of our two countries call for good and sincere attempts to improve our mutual relations.

On behalf of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, I would like to extend my greetings to the Chinese working people on the occasion of May Day, a festive day of peace, labor and fraternity. Dear Chinese listeners: I wish you success, health, and happiness on the occasion of this festival of unity.

PRC CONSTRUCTION OF ICBM BASE IN TIBET ENDANGERS S. ASIA

LD2812077Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 78 Morning Edition p 6 LD

[Correspondent I. Kovalev report: "Dangerous Plans"]

[Text] Delhi--There are indications that China has completed the construction of a large-scale ICBM base in Tibet, the Indian newspaper the ECONOMIC TIMES writes.

This base is far larger than a similar missile complex in Lop Nor in northwest China. The installation of the missile base in Tibet, the newspaper continues, introduces a dangerous new element to the military strategic situation in the South Asian subcontinent.

The newspaper writes anxiously that with the completion of the missile base in Tibet, China will begin tests on ICBM's. One of the testing routes could pass over the South Asian subcontinent near the Indian Ocean.

CPCZ CC PRESENTS AWARDS TO USSR, CSSR COSMONAUTS

LD2816967 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Prague, April 28, TASS--The highest Czechoslovak awards were presented in a ceremony in the Prague Castle to the members of the world's first international space crew. Gold Stars of Heroes of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic were presented to Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko, Georgiy Grechko, Aleksey Gubarev, and to the first Czechoslovak Cosmonaut Vladimir Remek for their successful flight on board the orbital research complex Salyut-6--Soyuz and for courage and heroism shown during the flight.

The awards were presented to the cosmonauts by general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Gustav Husak. Speaking at the ceremony, he said: A great day is marked today in Czechoslovakia--the first Czechoslovak cosmonaut has returned home and we welcome the outstanding Soviet heroes of space in our land. I am glad that I can present to the heroes high awards of our country for outstanding achievements in space exploration, for comradely friendly assistance to the Czechoslovak cosmonaut, for cooperation with him.

You were warmly and cordially met in Prague, Gustav Husak said; the people of Prague thus expressed the feelings of the entire Czechoslovak people. We are proud that a citizen of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic made a space flight together with his Soviet comrades. Over a short historic period that has passed since Yuriy Gagarin's first flight, Soviet cosmonauts filled in new and important pages in this history of world cosmonautics. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko set a new world record for the duration of a space flight, accumulated great experience of life in conditions of weightlessness. You are admired by the entire world. The first space flight with an international crew on board has outstanding scientific and technical importance and also a profound political importance. It attests to close cooperation and brotherhood between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries, to wide cooperation that is implemented under the "Intercosmos" program.

I believe this was summed up expressively by Leonid Brezhnev, when presenting high Soviet awards to you; he said that fraternal friendship and cooperation of countries of the socialist community went beyond the confines of our planet to the expanses of the universe. The space flight of an international crew is, above all, a manifestation of the internationalist policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, of friendship and brotherhood of socialist countries. Presenting high Czechoslovak awards, I would like to wish you new successes, to wish new outstanding achievements in space exploration to Soviet science and technology.

On behalf of Soviet cosmonauts, Yuriy Romanenko expressed profound gratitude to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, to the republic's government for high assessment of work of the participants in the flight on board the scientific space complex Salyut-6--Soyuz.

The presentation of the awards was attended by members of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, by other Czechoslovak leaders, as well as by the Soviet Union's Ambassador in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Vladimir Matskevich and Lieutenant General of the Air Force Vladimir Shatalov who supervises the training of Soviet cosmonauts and is now in Czechoslovakia.

USSR CURTIALS BREZHNEV FRG INTINERARY CITING POOR HEALTH

LD011125 Hamburg DPA in German 1057 GMT 1 May 78 LD

[Text] Bonn/Hamburg--In view of the apparently continuing poor health of Soviet state and party chief Leonid Brezhnev, the intinerary of his visit to Bonn and Hamburg (Thursday to Sunday) has been reduced by the Soviet side to the most urgent talks and events. According to information available in Bonn on Monday, the planned trip to the Ruhr Basin has been dropped altogether. The planned visit to the Hamburg town hall is doubtful. In contrast to expectations no time for talks between Brezhnev and German economic leaders so far has been fixed. The program does not contain a fixed timetable for talks, which include four with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, so as to enable the Soviet guest to rest at any time.

It has also been learned in Bonn that no full agreement has so far been reached on the final joint communique, which Brezhnev and Schmidt intend to sign in Bonn on Saturday. It has been learned that the text on the disputed area concerning Berlin is causing special difficulties in formulating the document, which is to summarize the results among other things, of the talks concerning detente, disarmament and cooperation.

Meanwhile some details have been learned in Bonn of the nearly agreed-on long-term agreement on German-Soviet economic cooperation. Its main points are in the spheres of energy and raw materials, traffic, and the construction of machines and installations.

USSR-FRG STRENGTHEN RELATIONS DESPITE RIGHTWING OPPOSITION

LD261255Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 17, 21 Apr 78 pp 6-7 LD

[F. Novik article: "The USSR and the FRG: Along the Course of Detente and Cooperation"]

[Text] The USSR and the FRG play an important role in world affairs. The political climate in Europe and beyond largely depends on how mutual relations between the two countries take shape.

The signing of the Moscow treaty on 12 August 1970 opened a new page in Soviet-West German relations and at the same time became an important contribution to the normalization of the international situation. Relations between the USSR and the FRG are now an important, permanent factor of peace and security.

The Soviet Government's 22 May 1976 statement stressed: "On the basis of the 1970 Moscow treaty an important shift was accomplished in relations between the Soviet Union and the FRG. These relations have entered a normal channel on the only possible basis--the rejection of intentions to break down existing European borders."

The treaty enshrinement of the principles of nonuse of force and observance of the territorial integrity of all states in Europe and the present and future inviolability of European borders, including Poland's western border along the Oder and the Neisse and the borders between the FRG and the GDR, created a principled basis for the subsequent normalization of West Germany's relations with the other European countries. This facilitated the drawing up of the quadripartite agreement on West Berlin signed in September 1971. Taken together these positive political advances opened the way for the creation of reliable foundations of security and cooperation on our continent which have been embodied in the final act of the all-European conference in Helsinki.

The normalization of the FRG's relations with socialist countries has become an important foreign policy component of the Bonn ruling coalition. This is confirmed by the practical results of the implementation of the "ostpolitik" over the 8 years the Social Democrats and Free Democrats have been in power.

Chancellor H. Schmidt notes in the book "Germany in 1976," for instance, that the treaties and agreements with the socialist countries were designed "to create the basis for a long-term process of normalization." According to Social Democratic Party Chairman W. Brandt's assessment in the same book, the Moscow treaty "is an expression of a principled policy designed for the long term."

In the book "Foreign Policy at the Service of Security and Freedom," H.D. Genscher, chairman of the Free Democratic Party and FRG vice chancellor and foreign minister, considers one his party's main foreign policy tasks to be "a realistic ostpolitik in which the desire for detente is indissolubly linked with the wish to preserve the equilibrium of forces" and he sees no alternative to detente.

The signing of the USSR-FRG treaty promoted the cooperative development in various spheres.

As for political cooperation, the practice of constant consultations at various levels has formed in past years. Bilateral problems and general issues of international relations of interest to both sides are discussed. Summit meetings have become regular events, making it possible, through direct contacts between leaders, to discuss and find mutually acceptable solutions to the most complex and crucial political problems.

The forthcoming visit to the FRG by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is the seventh Soviet-West German summit meeting since the signing of the Moscow treaty. In 1970 and 1971 Chancellor W. Brandt visited the USSR. In 1973 L.I. Brezhnev visited the FRG. In 1974 Chancellor Schmidt visited Moscow. In 1975 L.I. Brezhnev and H. Schmidt visited Moscow. In 1975 L.I. Brezhnev and H. Schmidt met in Helsinki. In the same year FRG President W. Scheel visited the USSR. The result of these meetings lies in the positive advances in relations between the two countries and the raising of Soviet-West German cooperation to a qualitatively new, higher level.

Meetings between ministers and experts from various ministries and departments have become a commonplace phenomenon in political relations between the two countries. The considerable increases in contacts at various levels attests to the degree of development of political cooperation, although the reserves here are far from exhausted. There are also difficulties on this path. As USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Gromyko noted, "not everything is smooth and even in relations between the Soviet Union and the FRG. Now to mention this would mean acting against our conscience. There are certain issues where the sides' political positions diverge or differ totally. There are also unresolved practical questions."

The antagonism of the opponents of detente and development of cooperation with the socialist countries is also still making itself felt. These forces, headed by the most reactionary Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union [CDU/CSU] politicians, having recently galvanized their activity are scorning no means in the struggle against the policy of peace and detente. [paragraph continues]

In an attempt to discredit Soviet peace-loving foreign policy the pillars of West German reaction are making assertions, as they did during the cold war, regarding the USSR's "military supremacy" and "the Soviet military threat." These forces are urging the arms race on and advocating that NATO be provided with the neutron bomb.

This February the document "considerations on the policy of a CDU/CSU government with respect to the Soviet Union" was published; it was drawn up by opposition deputies in the Bundestag and specialists on the Soviet Union and international law closely associated with the opposition under the leadership of A. Mertes, member of the Bundestag foreign affairs commission.

This document, which has already been examined in this journal (see NOVOYE VREMYA No 11) grossly distorts the Soviet Union's policy and essentially counts on the revision of mutual relations between the two countries and speaks of the impossibility of a future CDU/CSU government (?) developing relations "as long as Moscow adheres to its bellicose policy of coexistence."

Rightwing extremist circles in the FRG continue to seek to undermine the unity of the socialist countries and put pressure on the GDR. They continue to make much of tenets refuted by life itself--the tenets of "the unity of the nation" and "reunification"--and stoke tension around West Berlin, maliciously violating the quadripartite agreement. Here this is frequently presented under the mask of concern for the fate of detente and the development of relations with the countries of the opposite social system. At the same time the Soviet Union is accused of "intractability" and of pursuing a "hard line."

It so happens, however, that certain responsible people belonging to ruling parties also willingly or unwillingly play up to such sentiments. Doctor Klaus Von Dohnanyi, FRG minister of state for foreign affairs, said in an interview in July 1977 that the Soviet Union and the FRG "have together made a good pair of boots for detente, in which it is possible to move forward in the direction of insuring peace and detente throughout the world." But after the constructive statement came the reservation. K. Von Dohnanyi revealed "in the detente boot"...the "nail" of West Berlin, which, in his words, "is a great hindrance to us thanks to the Soviet side's present attitude to it." There is a well known formula on the strict observance and full implementation of the four-power agreement. If this course if steadily adhered to, there is no need to fear any "nail." This is precisely how the Soviet Union is acting, scrupulously observing the full implementation of everything which the four powers agreed on. The trouble is precisely that certain West German politicians are trying to interpret the agreement as some kind of "legalized" right to actions incompatible with the letter and the spirit of the agreement on West Berlin.

With the good will and interst of the two partners the existing difficulties are not an insuperable obstacle for the development of cooperation.

Considerable successes have been achieved in the last few years in the sphere of economic ties between the two states. They have now become the largest trade partners with one another among countries of opposing systems. Trade turnover between the USSR and the FRG increased by four times from 1970-1977. But there are still great reserves in this sphere too. They are confirmed if only by the fact that the USSR's share makes up 2 percent of the FRG's foreign trade turnover.

The construction of industrial projects in the Soviet Union by West German companies according to their own technology has assumed a considerable scale. At present more than 350 large-scale projects are being implemented. The mutual exchange of patents and licenses is growing. The first attempts at bilateral cooperation in the markets of third countries are being made.

Economic relations are based on a firm treaty basis. During L.I. Brezhnev's FRG visit in May 1973 an agreement on the development of economic, industrial and technical cooperation for a 10-year term was signed. In October 1974 in Moscow an intergovernmental agreement on the further development of economic cooperation for the same term was concluded. These documents have created a long-term basis for the full-bodied development of businesslike ties in the broadest range of spheres. In spite of the thesis spread by the enemies of "Eastern trade" to the effect that it has reached its "natural limit," considerable scope for initiative remains in other spheres too, which will be promising for both sides.

Alongside the successes in the development of bilateral economic cooperation difficulties are also noted in connection with the need to remove the still existing FRG importation limitations on various USSR goods and Common Market customs barriers. Nor does everything run smoothly with West German export crediting.

After normalization of relations prospects also opened up in the sphere of cultural cooperation. Tourism and the exchange of sports delegations have increased in recent years. Book and photographic exhibitions, scientific symposiums and meetings between parliamentarians and members of the public are held, and the exchange of movies and artistic collectives organized.

However, in this sphere too, negative phenomena are sometimes met in connection with the strategy of pressure on socialist countries by certain circles outside Europe under the campaign slogans of human rights "violation" in the countries of socialism. Echoes of this coordinated campaign, as of other ideological subversions, also appear in the pages of the West German press.

Life confirms completely convincingly: realistically minded forces in the FRG are much more powerful than those who place obstacles in the path of further normalization of relations with socialist countries. This makes it possible to assess optimistically the future of Soviet-West German cooperation.

The Soviet Union's position is clearly reflected in the letter sent by L.I. Brezhnev to the editors of the Social Democratic Party of Germany weekly VORWAERTS in 1975:

"We see the future of our relations with the FRG in peaceful coexistence and cooperation. This course, which answers the fundamental interests of our peoples and states, has stood the test of time and fully justified itself. The Soviet Union is fully determined to continue to follow this course."

The forthcoming official visit to the FRG by L.I. Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is intended to promote the further activation of cooperation and detente. The public of the two countries connects with this visit hopes for the further improvement of relations and the expansion of the sphere of mutual understanding, and for the strengthening of international peace and the development of cooperation between states of the two systems.

GROMYKO RECEIVES FRG ENVOY TO DISCUSS BREZHNEV TRIP

LD3014167 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of foreign affairs, today received Wieck, FRG ambassador to the USSR. Their conversation touched upon some questions relating to preparations for the visit of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev to the Federal Republic of Germany.

PCI CHAIRMAN LONGO COMMENTS ON RED BRIGADE TERRORISM

LD281323Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent N. Prozhogin report: "Defending Democracy"]

[Text] Rome, 25 April--In its eighth "communique" the Red Brigades terrorist organization has put forward concrete political demands: the release of 13 named terrorists who are in prison or awaiting trial for crimes committed--murders, robbery, and kidnaping with the aim of extorting a monetary ransom. Only on these conditions, the "communique" says, can the "death sentence" imposed on A. Moro be removed.

After a ministerial committee on security questions session, the office of the chairman of the Council of Ministers issued a statement confirming that the demand for the exchange of A. Moro for prisoners "was and remains unacceptable." The terrorists' demand is also rejected by all the country's democratic forces.

An editorial in the newspaper L'UNITA, organ of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], describes the terrorists' actions as "neofascism." The newspaper calls on the masses to give a decisive rebuff to the criminals and those dark circles which are behind them, and to defend the republic and the democratic rights gained at stanch struggle. Today, on the anniversary of Italy's liberation from fascist oppression, mass demonstration and meetings are being held throughout the country under these slogans.

An article by L. Longo, chairman of the PCI, which is also published in L'UNITA, is devoted to the anniversary of liberation and the new tasks facing Italy in connection with the recent events. L. Longo writes that presently it is primarily a question of defending the republic and its constitution, which arose as a result of overthrowing the fascist dictatorship. "The aim of the terrorist attack," the article says, "is to plunge the country into complete chaos.... By defeating terrorism, we will defeat these reactionary attempts." In conclusion the PCI chairman confirms that, as in the period of armed struggle against fascism, "the communists will fulfill with the same determination their duty as a great democratic, unifying, people's force."

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION RETURNS FROM NETHERLANDS VISIT

Moscow Arrival

LD281609Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Text] TASS--A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by V.P. Ruben, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, is back in Moscow after visiting the Netherlands at the invitation of the country's States General (parliament).

It was greeted at the airport by A.P. Shitikov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union; M.F. Sisin, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy; S.A. Bondarenko, deputy chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium international relations section, and executive workers of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

Also at the airport was K.W. Reinink, Dutch ambassador to the USSR.

Ruben Comments on Visit

LD281939Y Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 28, TASS--"The visit of the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the Netherlands was useful.

As all the contacts between parliament members, it helped to establish better mutual understanding and seek ways to strengthen and expand cooperation between the peoples of the two states," said Vitaliy Ruben, head of the delegation, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in his interview to the newspaper IZVESTIYA. Representatives of all the political parties of Holland, Vitaliy Ruben said, took part in the talk with the Soviet parliament members. "Naturally, various points of view and approaches to the solution of these or other pressing contemporary problems have come to light. However, we arrived at the common conclusion that it is necessary to strengthen relations between parliament members in the interests of peace, relaxation, curbing of the arms race. The frank exchange of views allowed us to get to know each other's positions better."

"A considerable part of our trip," Ruben said further, "was devoted to familiarisation with the country, with leading branches of her economy."

"All our meetings and talks were keynoted by lively interest in the life of the Soviet state, by readiness to maintain friendly contacts with the Soviet people, to share with them useful practical experience. Many of those with whom we talked expressed regret about the scarcity of truthful information about the Soviet Union in the press, on the radio and television."

"The visit paid by the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the Netherlands," Ruben said in conclusion," has helped without doubt to establish new links between our two countries, to strengthen mutual understanding and friendly feelings entertained by the Soviet and the Dutch peoples."

GISCARD REAFFIRMS DENIAL OF FRENCH NEUTRON BOMB TEST

LD291440Y Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Paris, April 29, TASS--Speaking in a French television interview, President V. Giscard d'Estaing of France said that France did not take part in the start of the international discussion of disarmament problems, but intends to play in the near future an active role in resolving this question. In his words, France is to put forward concrete proposals directed at limiting and then at reducing arms.

Touching upon press reports on the tests of the neutron bomb of its own production by France, V. Giscard d'Estaing reaffirmed the statement earlier made by spokesman for the Elysee Palace that such a test had not been conducted and is not envisaged at present. At the same time, he said, France is well informed about all development and research in the world that can lead to the creation of new types of weapons but, he reiterated, the tests have not been conducted and not been planned.

The president tried to justify in his interview the participation of French troops in the hostilities in Chad by the necessity of ensuring the security of the Frenchmen living and working in that country.

FRENCH CP HEAD ACCUSES SOCIALISTS OF RIGHTIST LEANINGS

LD281544Y Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Paris, April 28, TASS--General Secretary of the French Communist Party Georges Marchais delivered here a report at a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party which discussed the political situation in France and the party's tasks after the parliamentary elections.

Georges Marchais said that the plenary meeting was preceded by a broad debate in all party organizations on the results of the elections. He dwelt at length on the strategy and tactics of the Communist Party after an agreement on a Joint Governmental Program of the left forces was concluded in 1972. The only purpose of the French Communist Party, the speaker said, was to do everything for implementation of the policy of profound democratic transformations outlined in the program. The general secretary of the French Communist Party criticized the Socialist Party whose entire activity, he said, attests to the shift to the right. The speaker said that the Communist Party is in no way responsible for the fact that the left forces failed to win the elections to the National Assembly, though making an advance. At the same time, he pointed out that despite all kinds of attempts to weaken the Communist Party, the number of its representatives in parliament increased by 13 deputies.

The French Communist Party declares for a wide unity of all working people, of all who suffered from the policy of big business, Georges Marchais said. The communists are fighting for democratisation of the economic, social and political life. The French Communist Party continues supporting resolutely the idea of the union of the left forces, it remains loyal to the Joint Government Program. The speaker said that the tasks set by the Communist Party include that of combatting unemployment, the struggle for raising the living standards of the people, for expanding the working people's rights at enterprises, for liquidation of the extremely unjust majority election system.

Touching upon the Communist Party's stand in the foreign policy, the general secretary of the French Communist Party pointed out that the French communists must step up the struggle for disarmament. In view of the existing possibilities of peaceful coexistence, the arms race that constitutes a serious threat to world peace is ever more intolerable.

Stressing the need of further increase of the influence of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais said that strengthening of its organizational structures depends on the correct use of the principle of democratic centralism. He said that to doubt this principle is the surest means of weakening the party which is precisely what big business and the Socialist Party seek. We are determined to rebuff all who declare against democratic centralism, and thus try to question the party's policy, its effectivity and, in the long run, its every existence, Georges Marchais said.

BRIEFS

FRENCH CP DELEGATION--Moscow--A delegation of party workers of the French Communist Party was in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee from 24 to 30 April. The members of the delegation had talks in the Department for Organizational Party Work of the CPSU Central Committee and also with the CPSU Central Committee International Department. Besides visiting Moscow, the French communists also visited Gorkovskaya Oblast where they had talks in the oblast CPSU committee. The French comrades acquainted themselves with the activities of town and rayon party committees, primary party organizations, the oblast and local soviets of people's deputies and visited industrial enterprises and a kolkhoz. The members of the delegation had numerous meetings with party and Soviet employees and familiarized themselves with the working people's conditions of work, everyday life and leisure. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1037 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD]

TELEVISION PROTOCOL WITH FRANCE--Paris--A routine session of the mixed Soviet-French commission on cooperation in the field of color television has ended in the town of Cannes. In the course of its work a protocol was signed on the further development of scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries. In particular, the protocol envisions implementation of specific measures for television coverage of the Moscow olympics. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1320 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD]

ATHERTON ACHIEVEMENT IN CAIRO VIEWED SKEPTICALLY

LD281203Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 78 Morning Edition p 6 LD

[Correspondent R. Moseyev report: "Impasses in Separate Talks"]

[Text] Cairo--U.S. special envoy Atherton's visit to Egypt has ended.

During his meetings with President as-Sadat and Foreign Minister Kamil he discussed questions concerning the resumption of the separate Egyptian-Israeli talks.

Commenting on Atherton's trip, political observers note that the U.S. administration has galvanized its diplomatic steps to revive the deadlocked separate Egyptian-Israeli talks at a time when Israel has sharply hardened its position and is seeking new concessions from Cairo.

Political observers assess extremely skeptically the results of the Egyptian-U.S. talks which have now ended. The newspapers in particular point out that Egypt's "peace initiatives" have led only to complication of the Near East situation.

GENEVA CONFERENCE ON PEACE IN MIDEAST URGED

LD292122Y Moscow in Polish to Poland 1500 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Viktor Aleksandrov commentary]

[Text] The Israeli occupation of south Lebanon has lasted almost 1 ½ months, despite the UN Security Council resolution demanding immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops. The Israelis are consolidating their positions intensively in the southern regions of this Arab country. There are reports of plans to create a buffer state linked with Israel in south Lebanon. However, the aims of Tel Aviv are exceeding this framework. By deferring the withdrawal of its troops from south Lebanon, Tel Aviv is trying to gain time in order to strengthen its domination in other occupied Arab lands.

In mid-April the Israeli authorities resumed construction of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Zipori, Israeli deputy defense minister, said that with the support of the government several more settlements will be created on the West Bank. Israeli colonists are also taking possession of other occupied land.

Arab political commentators note that Israel would not dare to make these impudent moves if it was not certain of the benevolent stance of Washington. Broad American support for the aggressive course of Israeli expansion has enabled it to openly ignore the resolution of the Security Council, which demands immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The Arab press emphasizes that the present casual arrogance of Israeli soldiers in the seized areas in Lebanon and other Arab lands is a direct consequence of the so-called peace initiative of the Egyptian leadership. The division created in the Arab world as a result of Cairo's defeatist course has further sharpened the appetite of the Israeli expansionists. Making use of division among Arab countries, the Israeli ruling circles not only have occupied the southern region of Lebanon but also stiffened their stance regarding all the main aspects of resolving the situation in the Middle East.

According to Britain's DAILY TELEGRAPH, Tel Aviv seeks to exploit the occupation of Lebanese territory to obtain concessions in the overall resolution of the Middle East crisis. Israeli ruling circles are at present dictating conditions that they would not have dared to present earlier. They have started to say openly in Tel Aviv that UN Security Council resolution 242 allegedly did not embrace the West Bank and did not commit Israel to withdrawal of troops from that territory. This shows once more what great damage has been caused to peace efforts by Cairo's destructive course and the separate negotiations between Egypt and Israel. Nearly 5 months after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem a realistic agreement in the Middle East continues to be unattainable, admits the American daily New York TIMES.

Recently voices have been gaining in strength in the press of many Arab capitals in support of a return to collective action in solving the Middle East crisis as the only realistic course, because no separate action can secure peace for the long-suffering peoples of that region.

The Soviet Union invariably and consistently supports this approach. Statements by the Soviet Government and speeches by Leonid Brezhnev have repeatedly stressed the determined stance of the Soviet Union in support of an overall peace settlement in the Middle East, based on withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab lands occupied in 1967 and realization of the undeniable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the right to self-determination and the creation of their own state, and guaranteed security for all states in the region.

The Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries believe it is high time to put a stop to the dangerous and indiscriminate political maneuvers in the Middle East, and for the transfer of peace efforts to the Geneva conference. This is the only approach that conforms with the vital interests of the peoples of that region; such an approach also would help improve the international climate.

HUSAYN, TITO BACK PLO PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

LD292228Y Moscow TASS in English 2157 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, April 29, TASS--Yugoslavia and Jordan declare for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from occupied lands of Lebanon, for implementation in full volume of resolution 425 of the Security Council, says a communique on an official friendly visit of King Husayn of Jordan to Yugoslavia. King Husayn held talks with President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito.

The sides believe, the communique says, that the Israeli aggression in south Lebanon is aimed directly against the Palestinian Arab people, against its very existence and national rights. A just and durable settlement of the crisis in the Middle East is possible only if Israeli troops are withdrawn from all Arab lands occupied in 1967 and lawful national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to create their own state, are recognized. Such a solution of the problem presupposes participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization as an equal partner in all efforts for the settlement of the Middle East crisis, as well as the right of all countries and peoples of the region to independent and safe development.

IN TV APPEARANCE, 'ARAFAT PRAISES SOCIALIST SUPPORT

LD293134Y Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 29, TASS--"In our struggle we are backed by numerous friends in the whole world, including in developing states. But our main support are countries of the socialist community, and, above all, the Soviet Union", said Yasir 'Arafat in his Soviet television appearance today.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation stressed in the interview: "This support lends us strength for the just struggle for the return of our land, for selfdetermination, for establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

Touching upon the situation in the Middle East, he said: "In our opinion, the well-known Soviet-American statement on the Middle East of October 1977 can serve as a firm foundation for settlement in that area. The statement reaffirmed once again the Soviet Union's principled line in solution of Middle Eastern problems."

The Palestinian revolution, Arafat said, firmly opposes the conspiracy of imperialism, Israel and reaction, the conspiracy which is taking place in Lebanon and in other countries. The main aim of this conspiracy is, as before, the rout of the resistance movement and the Lebanese national-patriotic forces and also a blow on the Arab liberation movement as a whole.

In our region the Palestine liberation movement is backed by the Arab progressive forces, specifically the countries opposing As-Sadat's collusion with Israel, and also our friends in the national-patriotic forces of Lebanon. Being created in the Middle East thereby is a powerful base of opposing the conspiracy of imperialism, Zionism and reaction which seek to impose upon the Arabs capitulatory plans for a settlement. Upholding the right cause of the Palestinian revolution, we at the same time are waging struggle in the interests of all Arab peoples, Yasir 'Arafat said.

PLO WEEKLY CITED ON IMPERIALIST INTRIGUES

LD2818502 Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 28, TASS--The weekly FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH (PALESTINE REVOLUTION), central organ of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, exposed editorially the plans of the imperialist powers in the countries of the Middle East and northeast Africa. They pursue the purpose, the weekly says, to ensure here the strategic, economic and political positions ofimperialism.

The article notes that the socialist ideas are spreading increasingly in the Arab world and in Africa after the collapse of the colonial system. This brought about the emergence of progressive anti-imperialist regimes. Imperialism regards this as a threat to its monopoly interests and counters it by stepped up subversive activity against the objective revolutionary process, the weekly notes.

Special importance in the plans of the imperialist powers is attached to the Arab peninsula and the Persian Gulf, which are known for their huge oil deposits. The West is striving to create there a place d'armes intended to defend the interests of the oil monopolies and believes that this can be achieved by establishing control over the entrance to the Red Sea. The scope and frequency of the naval manoeuvres of Western powers in the Indian Ocean become understandable in this light, the weekly stresses. These manoeuvres, the article says, are closely linked with the strategy of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. They pursue the purpose of intimidating the peoples of the given region and foisting upon them a capitulatory course of Middle Eastern settlement, of creating a seat of tension there. The Arab peoples strongly condemn the intrigues of the Western powers and regard them as an aggression against the peoples of the region, against the progressive regimes and the national-liberation movement in the countries of the Red Sea basin, the FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH points out in conclusion.

SYRIAN MINISTER ON REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDEAST PEACE

LD291818Y Moscow TASS in English 1744 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

["Syria's Firm Stand"--TASS headline]

[Text] Beirut, April 29, TASS--A just and durable peace in the Middle East can be established only on the basis of complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab lands and of ensurance of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and creation of an independent state, Syria's Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said in an interview with the weekly AN-NAHAR AD-DOUWALI AL-ARABI. The actions now taken jointly by As-Sadat and Israel with the United States' encouragement are not aimed at a peaceful settlement, he said. The attempts to conclude a separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty lead to further deepening of the Arab-Israeli conflict and complicate the situation in the region where a new armed conflict might break out any time.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad criticised the policy of the United States, which gives all-round support to Israel. Israel would be unable to continue occupation of Arab lands and brazenly ignore the norms of international law and demands of the world public if it were not for deliveries of U.S. armaments.

Unlike the United States, the Soviet Union is resolutely and principledly demanding an overall and just settlement of the Middle East conflict, the Syrian minister stressed. This is why it declares categorically against the separate talks that are conducted by Egypt and Israel, against the attempts to split Arab unity. Amhad Iskandar Ahmad said that the Soviet Union always gave and continues giving Syria the necessary assistance in the political, economic and military spheres.

Additional Report

LD302158Y Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, April 30 TASS--Syria stands on a firm and principled position regarding a Middle East settlement, stated Iskandar Ahmad, the minister of information of the Syrian Arab Republic, in an interview for the Arabic language magazine AL-NAHAR AL-DOUWALI AL-ARABI, published in Paris. The Syrian Arab Republic comes out for such a settlement that would ensure a comprehensive solution of the problem based on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories, would secure the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the rights to return home, to self-determination and to create an independent state, the minister stressed.

Syria, he pointed out, seeks the restoration of Arab solidarity that would mobilise the efforts of the Arab peoples towards struggle against the enemy, but it rejects slogans of solidarity that serve to cover up the criminal actions of Egyptian President as-Sadat. The minister stressed that Syria will not take part in any Arab summit with As-Sadat's participation, as long as the Israeli-Egyptian separate negotiations last.

Iskandar Ahmad criticised the position of the U.S. for its continued supply of Israel with plenty of weapons, and its political support and economic aid. At the same time he highly assessed the position of the Soviet Union, which supports the Arab peoples' just cause: The USSR resolutely comes out for a comprehensive, just and lasting Middle-East settlement; it condemns separate solutions and the attempts to split the Arab rank, the minister said.

SYRIAN PAPER CALLS FOR GENUINE ARAB SOLIDARITY

LD292350Y Moscow TASS in English 2140 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, April 29, TASS--The Syrian Arab Republic holds a clearcut and principled position in the question of the Middle East settlement, being loyal to its commitments to the Arab nation, writes the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH. A just and durable peace in the Middle East can be achieved only on the basis of genuine Arab solidarity and not through the policy of capitulation and concessions to the forces of world imperialism and Zionism, the newspaper stresses.

CAIRO PAPER ON TASKS OF EGYPTIAN PROLETARIAT

LD281357Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Cairo, 26 April, TASS--On the occasion of the approaching day of international workers solidarity on 1 May the newspaper AL-AHALI, organ of the National Progressive (leftist) Party of the Arab Republic of Egypt, published an article in which the main tasks of the Egyptian proletariat at the present stage are formulated.

The Egyptian workers, AL-AHALI points out, are called upon to endeavor to strengthen solidarity and unity with the working class of other Arab countries in the name of liberating occupied Arab lands and giving help and support to the Arab people of Palestine, fighting to secure their lawful national rights, including the right to create their own independent state.

The most important task of all Egyptian working people in the country is, according to the newspaper, the decisive struggle against the attacks of foreign capital and its allies--local parasitic private capital--on the progressive socioeconomic gains of the Egyptian people, and the frustration of all the attempts of American imperialism to establish control over the country's natural resources and also over the Egyptian domestic market.

AL-AHALI considers another urgent task of the Egyptian working people to be the struggle to strengthen political and trade union democracy, including the right of workers, peasants and students to possess their own press organs, to hold gatherings and meetings to discuss their daily problems and to participate effectively in running the state by nominating their own candidatures for government posts which are today held only by representatives of the propertied classes--major land-owners and the bourgeoisie. The newspaper appeals for the activation of the struggle for the abolition of the law adopted last year at the initiative of President as-Sadat, which threatens penal servitude for life for those taking part in strikes, meetings and demonstrations.

COMPLEX ISRAELI DILEMMA ON WITHDRAWAL DESCRIBED

LD292223Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Vyacheslav Lavrentyev]

[Text] The tension in the Near East is causing alarm and concern all over the world. When the joint Soviet-American statement on the Near East settlement was published in October last year, it seemed that the threatening clouds over that area were starting to disperse.

But a month later many people realized that a settlement would be long in coming. Here is a report from our Beirut correspondent, Leonid Rassadin:

Let us recall that Egyptian President as-Sadat ended his dramatic visit to Jerusalem in November 1977. From the very beginning it was clear that this act was in no way unilateral. U.S. ruling circles were standing behind Cairo in the hope that they could sow dissension in the ranks of the Arabs and prepare the ground for the conclusion of a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal to the detriment of the basic interests of the Arab people and to their struggle for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and also to the detriment of the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's inherent rights.

The progressive Arab press wrote that official Washington was pursuing the following scheme: to shelve the joint Soviet-American statement and to cross out all the important clauses in that document. Here is roughly what the underhanded American plot looked like: since a new initiative has appeared now--meaning the separate talks which had begun between Egypt, a very large Arab state, and Israel--both regimes must be given an opportunity to continue their dialog so that an agreement can be reached.

As is known, these talks ended in deadlock. Even American mediation was of no avail. A stanch front [stoykiy front] in the shape of a number of progressive Arab states and the PLO was set up to counter capitulationist plans. Thus the intrigues of forces hostile to the Arabs rebounded on them.

The Arab world began to realize more and more just how dangerous the threat hanging over the Arab national liberation movement was. It is not surprising that Israel's belligerency only increased. I have in mind the interventionist Israeli Army's treacherous invasion into southern Lebanon. It must be said that Tel Aviv was not trying to conceal its schemes, which were to destroy the PLO, and the Palestine and Arab liberation movements as a whole. The political meaning behind this banditlike operation levaes no one in any doubt. It was an attempt to eliminate the Palestinian factor in the Near East so that the capitulationist conditions for a settlement in this region could be imposed on the Arabs.

But on this occasion things misfired again. The aggressor army met with a very strong rebuff from the joint detachments of the PLO and its ally, the Lebanese national patriotic forces.

Now the rulers of Tel Aviv find themselves in a very complex dilemma. Should they, in accordance with the demands of the UN Security Council, withdraw their troops from all the occupied south Lebanese territories or invoke more sharp condemnation from all the peace-loving forces for violating the sovereignty of another Arab state, the Republic of Lebanon?

ISRAEL CONTINUES PROVOCATIONS AGAINST LEBANON

LD291927Y Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 29, TASS--Lebanon's President Ilyas Sarkis instructed Salim al-Huss, who headed the previous cabinet, to form Lebanon's new government. As is known, the Al-Huss government resigned last week as a result of the aggravation of the situation in Lebanon in connection with Israel's aggression in the south of Lebanon.

Today Salim al-Huss began consultations to determine the composition of the new cabinet. In this connection the central Political Council of the national patriotic forces of Lebanon made a statement in which it declared against creation of the cabinet representing the interests of any one political grouping. The activity of the new cabinet, the statement says, must be aimed, above all, at creation of the united front of the struggle against the Israeli aggression and at stabilizing the Lebanese-Palestinian relations on the basis of agreements existing between the Lebanese Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The statement stresses that national accord cannot be achieved if the national patriotic forces that have great influence are prevented from participating in Lebanon's political life.

In the meantime, the Israeli military continue armed provocations in the south of Lebanon. For the first time after a long intermission, the aggressor's troops used yesterday military helicopters in operations against units of the Lebanese national patriotic forces and the Palestinian resistance movement. There was strafing with rockets and machine-gun fire from helicopters.

Despite another widely-publicized "withdrawal" of Israeli troops from some districts of south Lebanon planned for the days ahead, the aggressor continues entrenching itself in an eight-kilometer wide belt in the Lebanese territory. A line of reinforcements with concrete weapon emplacements, positions for artillery and sheds for tanks and armoured vehicles is being built on the stretch along the Mediterranean coast from Ras al-Bayada to the district of eastern Arkub. The majority of populated localities seized by Israeli troops have been surrounded with barbed wire fences and approaches to them have been mined. Several thousand Israeli officers and men will be stationed in Bayt Yahun village where a military camp is being set up.

The local political observers stress that Israel's actions in south Lebanon show clearly that the aggressor does not intend to withdraw its troops. According to the aggressor's designs, the control over strategically important populated localities and heights in the south of Lebanon will enable it to stage any time another large-scale action in the territory of the sovereign Arab state.

ISRAEL CONTINUES TO DEVELOP OCCUPIED LANDS

LD301108Y Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 30, TASS--Israel continues to "develop" the occupied Arab lands in defiance of the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and the world public protests. Lately Israel intensively set about developing the oil resources in Sinai Peninsula. Encouraged by the capitulatory course of the Egyptian leadership and its readiness to make concessions, the Israeli authorities continued to assert brazenly that they are full masters of the occupied lands including the Sinai Peninsula and its natural wealth. The statement by Yizhaq Moda'i, Israeli minister of power and infrastructure, broadcast over Tel Aviv radio, directly says that Israel rejected and will reject all Egypt's demands concerning the production of oil in the Sinai, and that the exploitation of the deposits will be continued in accordance with the earlier set plans. It is pointed out in this connection in the Lebanese capital that the Israeli ruling circles still more actively seek to use to the maximum in their interests the auspicious-to-them situation which has developed as a result of Cairo's separate actions which undermined the unity of Arab countries.

SEYCHELLES SAYS MANCHAM IMPLICATED IN ATTEMPTED COUP

LD291856Y Moscow TASS in English 1841 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Victoria, April 29, TASS--The security service of the Republic of Seychelles today revealed a plot that was aimed at a state coup.

A report of the Ministry of the Interior says that the police arrested a number of persons after the security service had discovered a considerable amount of weapons and munitions hidden in various parts of the country. The security service established that the participants in the plot intended to overthrow the present government, taking advantage of the fact that the republic's president, France Albert Rene, was on an official visit abroad. The report says that there are proofs of the complicity in the plot of former President James Mancham and of three members of his cabinet. There is information that over the past months they were actively raising funds, recruiting mercenaries and purchasing arms. It is noted that armed mercenaries are staying in a neighbouring country and there is a vessel ready to bring them to Seychelles.

RHODESIAN COUNCIL'S DISMISSAL OF MINISTER SHOWS INSTABILITY

LD291523Y Moscow TASS in English 1025 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, April 29, TASS--The Executive Council, formed within the framework of the agreement on "internal settlement" in Rhodesia, made of ring-leader of the racist regime Smith and three African puppet leaders, has announced the dismissal of the Minister of Justice and Law and Order Byron Hove. The African "minister" made critical remarks against the punitive apparatus and accused it of brutalities and repressions against the civilian African population, and made some other pronouncements.

The first political scandal in the camp of the "transitional interim government", formed the other day, is the convincing testimony of instability of the "internal settlement" agreement, signed in Salisbury between the racists' ringleader Smith and the African puppets, who betrayed the cause of the liberation struggle of the Zimbabwe people. It reveals the real aims of this plan--to form in Rhodesia a neo-racist state and preserve all white minority's privileges and key posts in economic sphere.

RHODESIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY COOPERATION EXAMINED

LD282058Y Moscow TASS in English 2012 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] London, April 28, TASS--The unlawful Smith clique in southern Rhodesia counts on Israel's assistance in overcoming the international isolation in which it has landed. As seen from a report published in the South African newspaper RAND DAILY MAIL, which refers to sources close to the Rhodesian ruling circles, Salisbury is convinced that Israel will display readiness to recognize the Smith government. This confidence is definitely grounded. Broadly known are the close ties existing between the Zionist rulers of Tel Aviv and the racialists of South Africa, ties that are yearly assuming the concrete contours of a military alliance, spearheaded against the liberation struggle of the African and Arab peoples. The point in question, primarily, are deliveries to South Africa of Israeli Jericho and Gabriel missiles, Kfir aircraft, electronic equipment, warships and smallarms.

The Republic of South Africa also serves for quite a time now as a "transhipment point" for the supply of the Rhodesian racialists with armaments, military materiel and fuel. In their punitive operations against the Zimbabwe guerrillas and piratic raids on the neighbouring African states the Rhodesian servicemen use Israeli "Uzi" submachine guns and other arms, received from the Republic of South Africa where they were delivered from Israel.

Apart from this Israeli military specialists train the special "Selous Scouts" punitive detachments. As reported in [word indistinct] by Muyawala, permanent secretary of the Zambian Ministry of Defence, Zambia possesses reliable information on the participation of Israeli commandos in the training of punitive detachments for staging provocations against Mozambique. The Israeli advisers, Muyawala said, were the initiators of the invasion of independent African states under the pretext ofpursuing Zimbabwe guerrillas.

MENGISTU SPEAKS ON RETURN TO ETHIOPIA FROM CUBA

LD291846Y Moscow TASS in English 1142 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 29, TASS--Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of socialist Ethiopia Mengistu Haile Mariam returned home after the completion of the official friendly visit to Cuba at the invitation of First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, Chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba Fidel Castro Ruz.

Speaking in the airport, Mengistu Haile Mariam said that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Ethiopian and Cuban peoples are firmly based on the common stands in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid and exploitation, for socialism and social progress. In the course of the visit, both sides once again reaffirmed their fidelity to these ideals.

The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council stressed that from the first days of the Ethiopian revolution, Cuba, guided by the principles of proletarian internationalism, resolutely sided with the wide mass of the people of Ethiopia, which will never forget the contribution of the Cuban people and its sacrifices in the joint struggle against the intrigues of international imperialism and reaction.

Mengistu Haile Mariam noted that during the visit the Ethiopian delegation has been accorded the warmest and most cordial welcome and that he regards the awarding of the Playa Giron Order to him, as a sign of profound respect of the Cuban people for the Ethiopian revolution.

The head of the Provisional Military Administrative Council spoke highly of the successes of the Cuban people in socialist construction, as well as of its political consciousness and readiness for self-sacrifices in the name of the ideals of the revolution and internationalism. Ethiopia, which is at the first stage of the revolutionary development, can learn much from the Cuban revolution, which is an inspiring example to it.

Mengistu Haile Mariam said that in the course of the talks held in Cuba also were discussed questions of the development of political, economic and cultural ties. Their results are to be placed on record in a joint communique.

...Provisional Military Administrative Council stressed that his visit ... successful and fruitful. He also expressed confidence that it will ... further strengthening and broadening of the bonds of friendship and ... between Ethiopia and Cuba.

... ON SOCIALIST POSITIVE WORLD CHANGES

... Moscow TASS in English 0805 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

... April 30, TASS--A joint Cuban-Ethiopian communique on the results of ... visit to Cuba by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional ... Administrative Council of Ethiopia, chairman of the Council of Ministers ... Socialist Ethiopia, was issued in Havana. The sides noted positive changes in the ... arena in favour of the forces of socialism, national independence, social pro- ... and universal peace.

... expressed support for the policy of detente in international relations and came ... against the attempts by the reactionary circles of capitalist countries to under- ... this policy. Cuba and Ethiopia condemned imperialism's and its allies' reactionary ... activities in the area of the Horn of Africa aimed at stirring up wars between African ... for the purposes of retaining imperialist control over them.

... expressed conviction that the recognition of the principle of inviolability of ... is an indispensable condition for achieving a lasting peace in the area.

... Ethiopian side expressed a deep gratitude to the people, the Communist Party and ... Government of Cuba for their internationalist help to the Ethiopian revolution in ... struggle against imperialist intrigues, for the country's territorial integrity.

... PAPER CITED ON SOMALI EXPANSIONISM

... Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

... Dar es Salaam, April 29, TASS--Under the heading "Barre Wants Another War," ... newspaper of the Tanzanian trade unions MFANIA KAZI published today an article ... exposes the expansionist policy of the Somalian leadership, its claims to lands ... foreign neighbouring African states.

... and his envoys in the Middle East, turning for financial, economic and ... assistance to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab countries, constantly stress ... assistance is needed for the granting of interests of the entire Somalian ... living in the territory of Somalia, as well as in Ethiopia, Kenya and ... the newspaper writes. And they emphasise that they are striving to give ... Somalians "in the struggle for national unification."

... article says that the Mogadiscio authorities have not given up the idea of creating ... Somalia." They continue harboring plans of annexing the Ogaden and north ... of Somalia and for this purpose turn for support to reactionary Arab states which ... in the Horn of Africa.

H4

SOVIET INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

MATERIAL ON PREPARATORY ANTI-IMPERIALIST CONFERENCE

Committee Statement

LD2822O2Y Moscow TASS in English 2120 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 28, TASS--The preparatory conference of anti-imperialist forces, which is to open today in the Ethiopian capital, is expected to contribute substantially to the struggle waged by the peoples of Africa and the Middle East against international imperialism and reaction, it is pointed out in the statement of the conference's organizational committee, issued here.

In order to safeguard its strategic, political and economic interests, the document points out, international imperialism, headed by the United States, is now making desperate efforts to undermine the unity and solidarity of the revolutionary forces and the national liberation movement. It not only resorts to acts of open aggression, but also strives by all means to create new seats of tension in the world, fanning up chauvinism and nationalism, hatching plots against the progressive states.

Hand-in-hand with the reactionary regimes of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and several other states, imperialism has launched in the Middle East a broad political and diplomatic campaign against the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine encouraging in every way the separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. It is striving to isolate the Palestine Liberation Organization and to deal a blow at all the progressive forces in that region.

In South Africa international imperialism, which backs the farcical negotiations between the heads of the racialist regimes and the puppet African leaders, [tries] to save these regimes and to split the struggle of the patriots for genuine freedom.

With the help of external and internal reaction imperialism is striving to strangle the Ethiopian revolution in the Horn of Africa, is conducting a coordinated offensive against it. However, thanks to the heroism of the broad popular masses, principled internationalist support of the countries of the socialist community, these criminal plans vis-a-vis Ethiopia have suffered a complete fiasco.

At the present time, the document stresses, all the progressive forces of the world are faced with the task of rallying their ranks even closer, of strengthening revolutionary solidarity and of resolutely rebuffing the intrigues of imperialism and reaction in Africa and in the Middle East.

Soviet Official's Remarks

LD291547Y Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 29, TASS--The international conference of solidarity with the struggle of African and Arab peoples against imperialism and reaction, which is to be held in the Ethiopian capital in September this year, will be a signal event and is to contribute towards strengthening the unity, cohesion and solidarity of all the revolutionary, progressive and democratic forces of Africa and the Middle East, head of the Soviet delegation Ahmed Iskenderov, member of the Presidium of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, told the current preparatory meeting for the conference.

The conference, he stressed, is to be held at a crucial historical period, when the struggle of peoples for progressive socio-economic transformations is assuming an increasingly deeper and consistent character. This struggle waged by them meets with wide support from progressive forces all over the world and in the first place of the peoples of the countries of the socialist community. The clear and principled stand of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the head of the Soviet delegation stressed, was vividly manifest in their attitude to the struggle of the heroic Ethiopian people, which scored an outstanding victory and frustrated the plans of world imperialism and reaction for partitioning revolutionary Ethiopia, and is now making selfless efforts for the construction of a new life.

The head of the Soviet delegation put forward concrete proposals as regards the holding of the September solidarity conference. Among its main objectives he mentioned expression of wide support by the progressive forces of the world for the just struggle of the people of revolutionary Ethiopia, discussion of the problems of unity of actions and solidarity of the developing countries as opposed to the imperialist policy of neocolonialism and destabilisation, support for the struggle of the patriots of the south of Africa for the ultimate eradication of colonialism and racialism, struggle for a lasting and just peace in the Middle East as well as the questions of struggle for peace, international detente and disarmament.

The settlement of these issues, the Soviet delegate said, would considerably further the cause of national liberation and social progress, create new favourable conditions for further developing and deepening present-day national-democratic revolutions.

PMAC Official's Remarks

LD2920Z2Y Moscow TASS in English 2014 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 29, TASS--The situation in the African Continent and in the Middle East and the ways of further consolidation of unity and solidarity of all liberation movements faced with continued intrigues of imperialism are on the agenda of the preparatory meeting of the international conference of solidarity with the struggle of African peoples against imperialism and reaction which is planned to be held in the Ethiopian capital in September of this year.

Taking part in the meeting that opened here are representatives of the World Peace Council, of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the African National Congress of South Africa, the Palestine Liberation Organization and other liberation movements and international non-governmental organizations.

General Secretary of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress made an address to the meeting. The imperialist and reactionary circles now resort to deception, seeking to arrest the revolutionary process at any cost, he said. Their attempts to undermine socialist, progressive and democratic governments in Africa must be resolutely opposed. Therefore, the September conference of solidarity in Addis Ababa will be of great importance from the viewpoint of further consolidation of anti-imperialist forces, he stressed.

Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress expressed the readiness of the revolutionary Ethiopia to give complete support to the movements for national liberation and independence.

VORSTER'S ACCEPTANCE OF WEST'S NAMIBIA PLAN IS 'MANEUVER'

LD261808Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Africa 1430 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] As was reported earlier, the racist leader Vorster has announced that the Pretoria regime has accepted the proposal of the five Western powers concerning Namibia. In his speech, which he read out in Parliament in Cape Town, Vorster said that he had received the pledge of the Western powers that the South African occupation forces would not leave the territory of Namibia after the elections are held there. In circles of the United Nations in New York, where the special session of the General Assembly on Namibia is being held, this agreement of the fascist dictator is viewed as another maneuver of the racists and their backers.

The Vorster regime cannot but reckon with the changing situation. It is compelled to maneuver especially now, after the total failure of its plans to preserve real power of white minority with the help of the policy of Bantustanization in Namibia. Now Pretoria is resorting to another trick. It is agreeing to holding elections in Namibia, recognizes the principle of having the United Nations participate in the elections and promises to release political prisoners. However, upon second glance, these seemingly smooth and sugar-coated promises contain many underwater reefs and outright traps. Today, what is the stand of the Western powers and the South African ruling circles in respect to Namibia?

The Western proposals provide for some kind of a formula for reducing the numerity [as heard] of the racist troops in Namibia, deploying a certain contingent of UN forces there which are to maintain law and order during the interim period and during the holding of elections. Many of these proposals surprisingly look like the notorious Vorster plan for granting independence to Namibia. The newspaper Washington POST admits that these joint actions of the Western five consider the last desperate attempt to awaken the embattled sides to reach a compromise, allegedly on the basis of an acceptable-for-everyone peace formula for granting independence to Namibia. However, in reality these proposals run counter to the vital interests of the people of Namibia.

The recent actions of the occupation forces also testify to Pretoria's reluctance to meet the lawful demands of its people. The racists are conducting large-scale military preparations in Namibia, they are mining strategic roads on the border with Angola, they are sending large consignments of tanks and other military supplies to Namibia. In the most important strategic regions of the country they have concentrated about 50,000 South African soldiers who are in constant battle readiness.

Vorster's statement about his consent to the proposals of the Western powers is regarded by independent Africa and by all progressive forces throughout the world as another maneuver of the South African racists and their backers. The attempts of the Pretoria regime to crush the aspirations of the peoples in the south of Africa to self-determination, freedom and national independence, said at a special session of the General Assembly chairman of the UN Council for Namibia, Zambia's representative, Konie, represent an increasing threat to international peace and security and this mounting threat is being nurtured by the connivance of the Western powers of the racist regime of Vorster.

TASS COVERAGE OF COUP IN AFGHANISTAN

Initial Report

LD2718397 Moscow TASS in English 1837 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] London, April 27, TASS--The REUTER NEWS AGENCY with reference to a Kabul Radio broadcast reported that a military coup took place in Afghanistan and that power in the country was taken over by a military revolutionary council.

Coup Successful; Daud Killed

LD2813027 Moscow TASS in English 1257 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

["Events in Afghanistan"--TASS headline]

[Text] Islamabad, April 28, TASS--According to reports reaching here from Afghanistan a coup was staged here yesterday. Power in the country was taken by the Revolutionary Council of the Armed Forces. In its statement read on the radio in Kabul by Colonel Abdul Qadir, chief of the staff of the air force, the Revolutionary Council says that "the armed forces have taken upon themselves the defence of the homeland, of national independence, freedom and honour of the Afgan people." The Revolutionary Council announced that in its home policy it will defend "the principles of the Islam and democracy, the freedom and inviolability of the person and will seek progress for Afghanistan in all fields." In its foreign policy it "will follow a course of positive and active neutrality, a policy of supporting peace in the region and throughout the world and of friendship with all countries on the basis of peaceful coexistence and respect for the U.N. Charter."

As was reported by a REUTER correspondent from Islamabad referring [to] Radio Kabul, the demoted head of state and Prime Minister Mohammad Daud and his brother Mohammad Naim who refused to surrender to the troops were killed during yesterday's intensive exchange of fire in the capital of Afghanistan. Radio Kabul says that the Revolutionary Council is in control of the situation in Kabul and other districts of the country. The Constitution has been suspended and a curfew introduced. The country will be governed by decrees of the Revolutionary Council.

Iran Closes Border

LD2912147 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

["Situation in Afghanistan"--TASS headline]

[Text] Islamabad, April 29, TASS--According to reports reaching here, the situation in Afghanistan, where a coup d'etat took place two days ago, is returning to normal. Radio Kabul announced a reduction of the time of the curfew. The Revolutionary Council of the Armed Forces called upon civil servicemen, physicians, teachers and transport workers to resume their duties from the morning today. Shops have reopened in Kabul for the first time after the coup. Radio Kabul said that the situation in the country is fully under the control of the Revolutionary Council. The announcement said that all arms of the service and all the military units nationwide declared their loyalty to the Revolutionary Council.

Teheran, April 29, TASS--Iran decided to close its border with Afghanistan. Observers link this step with the coup d'etat, which took place in Afghanistan two days ago.

Situation 'Normalizing'

LD301658Y Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 30, TASS--The situation in Afghanistan, where three days ago power was seized by a Revolutionary Council of the Armed Forces, is gradually normalising. Institutions, enterprises, schools and colleges have resumed their functions in Kabul and other cities and traffic is normal. A new reduction of the curfew has been announced.

A report disseminated by the official BAHTAR agency stresses that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan are in complete control of all the parts of the country. "The popular masses," the agency says, "ardently welcome the victorious revolution of the national armed forces."

Revolutionary Council Decree

LD301826Y Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

["Broadcast by Kabul Radio"--TASS headline]

[Text] Kabul, April 30, TASS--Kabul Radio today promulgated the decree number one of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It says:

1. The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has elected the outstanding national revolutionary Nur Mohammad Taraki the chairman of the council and concurrently the head of state and prime minister.

2. Being the supreme body of state power, the Revolutionary Council at its first historical sitting, which has become a great turning point in the history of the Afghani people's liberation movement, unanimously took the following decisions:

1. Afghanistan, according to its political system, is hereby proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

2. The Revolutionary Council elects the government, which is the surpeme organ of executive power. The government is responsible to the Revolutionary Council.

3. Martial law will continue in the country until further notice.

4. The Revolutionary Council will shortly appoint the deputy chairmen of the Revolutionary Council, the deputy heads of government, as well as members of the government, and will approve the general course of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. All high-level state and governmental activity will be regulated by decrees of the Revolutionary Council and the government.

5. May the First is a festival of international solidarity of the revolutionary working class of the whole world. As it congratulates the workers and working people of Afghanistan and the whole world on this historical date, the Revolutionary Council marks the victorious liberation action of April 27, 1978, by proclaiming May the First a free-from-work holiday.

TASS ANNOUNCEMENT REVIEWS KAL CREW'S RELEASE FROM USSR

LD2911315Y Moscow TASS in English 1126 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

["TASS announcement"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 29, TASS--As has been reported, USSR's airspace was violated on April 20 this year by a Boeing-707 plane of a South Korean air company.

As a result of the actions of the Air Defence, the plane landed in the territory of the Karelskaya ASSR. All the passengers and the crew were evacuated to a populated locality nearby and were turned over in the airport of Murmansk on April 23 to representatives of the U.S. Consulate General in Leningrad and the Pan American air company. On the same day, they left the territory of the Soviet Union with the exception of plane commander Kim Chang-kyu and navigator Yi Kun-sik, who were detained in connection with the investigation.

In the course of the investigation, it was established that the incident with the South Korean plane had taken place as a result of the failure of the crew to abide by the international rules of flight and refusal to obey the demands of Soviet fighter planes of the Air Defence to follow them for landing in an airfield.

The commander of the crew and the navigator have pleaded guilty of violating USSR's airspace and border and the international rules of flights. They confirmed that they had understood the orders of the Soviet aircraft, but did not obey these orders. Pleading guilty to the Soviet law, the crew commander and the navigator addressed a written appeal for pardon to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Considering the admission by Kim Chang-kyu and Yi Kun-sik of their guilt and their repentance, and also guided by the principles of humanism, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet decided not to institute criminal proceedings against Kim Chang-kyu and Yi Kun-sik and send them out from the territory of the Soviet Union.

DPRK GROUP MAKES COMPREHENSIVE CALL FOR REUNIFICATION

LD2811555Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "The Aim--Unification"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 25 April--The Central Committee of the Korean United Democratic Fatherland Front has appealed to all the political parties and public organizations of South Korea, as well as organizations of Koreans abroad, to join forces, regardless of ideological differences, to unite the motherland.

In the appeal published here, the United Democratic Fatherland Front Central Committee indicated that a confederation of North and South is the most rational way to achieve national consolidation and accelerate the unification of Korea. It proposed a nationwide political consultative conference with the participation of representatives of all political parties and groups and various strata of the population to plan measures for the unification of the motherland.

The United Democratic Fatherland Front Central Committee expressed confidence that the political groups will respond to the call for the consolidation of forces to achieve the noble aim of uniting the motherland.

USSR, DPRK DEVELOP FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM FOR 1978-1979

LD281814Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] In Moscow today, a plan of cooperation for 1978-1979 was signed between the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies, the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society and the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society. Important aspects of the plan are the provisions for a month of solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea, for an independent peaceful unification of the country on a democratic basis and a month of Soviet-Korean friendship devoted to the 30th anniversary of the DPRK.

S. KOREA ANNOUNCES 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS ZONE

LD291700Y Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Pyongyang, April 29, TASS--The South Korean Government announced the introduction of a 12-mile zone of territorial waters. Under the decision, which comes into force today, the territorial waters will be limited by a three-mile zone in the Korea Strait in the area of the Japanese Tsusima Islands to ensure unhindered passage of foreign ships.

U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS, WEAPONS SHIPMENTS TO ROK HIT

OW290300Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 28 Apr 78 OW

[Text] The United States has broken its promise to pull its troops out of South Korea, and now the U.S. House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee has adopted a proposal to retain 26,000 U.S. troops there. If this proposal becomes law, the original plan to withdraw U.S. troops from South Korea (?on a gradual basis) will be almost meaningless. President Carter stated this week that only 800 U.S. troops would be withdrawn from South Korea by this fall. This figure is 25 percent less than originally planned. Furthermore, this token troop withdrawal will be accompanied by large weapons transfers to South Korea.

JAPAN-USSR FISHING PACT CITED AS BASIS FOR FURTHER RELATIONS

OW290153Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 26 Apr 78 OW

[Afonin commentary]

[Text] On 21 April in Moscow, the Soviet and Japanese governments signed an agreement on fishery cooperation and a protocol on maintaining order in salmon fishing operations, setting prospective conditions for salmon fishing operations in the northwestern Pacific in 1978. Japan expressed continuing and strong concern about the progress in the Moscow negotiations, which lasted for more than 2 months. This is quite understandable. The Soviet Union attaches importance to fishery cooperation with Japan because the fishery issue is considered an essential factor in Soviet-Japanese relations.

The good will of the Soviet Union toward Japan was clearly demonstrated by its conclusion of two agreements--the Soviet-Japanese fishery agreement and the Japanese-Soviet fishery agreement--last year when the fishery situations changed in many parts of the world because of the establishment of 200-mile fishery zones.

The USSR's basic position is to eagerly pursue fishery cooperation with Japan for their mutual benefit. Based only on this position, the Soviet Union incorporated various fishery related issues into its proposed treaty of neighborliness and cooperation with Japan.

Article 9 of the Soviet-proposed treaty states: Being interested in the preservation and rational use of the biological resources of the world's oceans, the USSR and Japan shall continue to broaden cooperation in this field on the basis of appropriate agreements and with due regard for the legislation of the parties.

Needless to say, the conclusion of this treaty will expedite the broadening and deepening of fishery cooperation between the Soviet Union and Japan. The benefits which can be derived from such cooperation is well understood in Japan.

The 8 April issue of ASAHI SHIMBUN says: International fishery cooperation will play a major role in building a lasting, stable fishery order. It is desirable for Japan and the Soviet Union to continue constructive talks on such cooperation. We would like to point out that Japan has not always actively promoted cooperation with the Soviet Union in fishery and other fields. Japan has long failed to respond to a Soviet proposal to conclude a long-term agreement on economic cooperation. Furthermore, it is very difficult to understand the negative, somewhat exaggerated response of the Japanese Government to the Soviet proposal to conclude a treaty of neighborliness and cooperation.

While refusing this proposal by the Soviet Union, the Japanese Government has negotiated with China on a so-called Japan-China treaty of peace and friendship, the details of which are clearly anti-Soviet.

We have already pointed out repeatedly that the hegemonist policy of China's leaders will harm not only the interests of the Soviet Union but also those of Japan.

The incident near the Senkaku Islands clearly showed that China will take action against Japan--action which is totally inconsistent with the notions of peace and friendship--even as it asks Japan to conclude a treaty of peace and friendship. No one can predict with certainty what action Peking's leaders will take once the treaty is signed and it is less restricted in its relations with Japan.

As is widely known, there are some people who assert that the Senkaku incident should be divorced from the Japan-China treaty issue. SANKEI SHIMBUN recently wrote that while Peking's true intention regarding the Senkaku incident is unknown, it would be unwise to seek a separate solution to the Senkaku issue.

On the other hand, the Soviet-proposed treaty of neighborliness and cooperation is aimed at establishing true neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and Japan.

The signing of the fishery agreement and protocol last week in Moscow marks a substantial new step in bilateral cooperation. It is highly desirable that Soviet-Japan fishery cooperation--now on the right track--will lead to further cooperation in other fields. There is no doubt that the Soviet proposed treaty will provide the foundation for this expanded cooperation.

It is now Japan's turn to decide.

JAPANESE AGENCY REPORTS PRC SERVICEMEN ABOARD VESSELS

LD281201Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Well-Founded Fears"]

[Text] Tokyo, 25 April TASS--The provocative actions of Chinese fishing vessels in the Senkaku Islands region are continuing to cause serious concern among Japanese authorities. S. Abe, chief secretary of the Japanese Cabinet, has reported that Chinese vessels still remain near the islands. As the JIJI NEWS AGENCY notes, in addition to fishermen, Chinese servicemen are aboard the vessels, and are apparently leading the flotilla's operations. "The presence of Chinese servicemen on the fishing vessels," the agency stresses, "confirms the opinion that the present incident in the Senkaku region was not an 'accident,' as the Chinese side claims, but is an action planned in advance."

Japanese Prime Minister T. Fukuda, at a conference of government representatives and the leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], indicated the need for a thorough investigation of all the circumstances of the Senkaku incident.

Peking's hegemonist actions have intensified the fears of those LDP leaders who advocate a cautious approach to the conclusion of a "treaty on peace and friendship" with China. According to press reports, Y. Nakasone, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party Council on General Issues; K. Yasui, chairman of the Japanese Diet's House of Councillors; and H. Nadao and R. Matsuno, prominent LDP figures, have called on the government to decide to oppose any territorial claims on Peking's part. They sharply criticized those LDP forces which favor a speedy resumption of Japanese-Chinese talks to conclude a treaty.

The actions of Chinese fishing vessels, many of which are armed with machineguns, are certainly a demonstration of China's territorial claims on Senkaku, the newspaper MAINICHI DAILY NEWS writes today. This incident serves as a warning that the problem of a treaty with China must be examined on the basis of Japan's national interests.

China Planned 'Provocative Actions'

LD291826Y Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, April 29, TASS--About 60 Chinese ships are still in direct proximity of the Japanese territorial waters in the area of the Senkaku Islands. This was reported here today by the Maritime Safety Agency. The Chinese side has been conducting these provocative actions for more than half a month, despite repeated protests of the Japanese Government. The Peking leaders asserted that the incident took place "accidentally," but at a recent meeting with deputy of the Japanese parliament, Utzunomiya, Chairman of the Chinese-Japanese Friendship Society Liao Cheng-chi actually admitted that these actions had been planned beforehand.

OKINAWA RESIDENTS PROTEST AGAINST F-15 AIRCRAFT AT KADENA

OW290931Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 28 Apr 78 OW

[Text] According to KYODO NEWS SERVICE, residents of Okinawa Prefecture have protested the U.S. decision to deploy 72 F-15 Eagles to Kadena Air Base to replace the F-4 Phantoms.

The Okinawa prefectural government in Naha City objected to this decision, noting the accidents caused by F-15 engine failures. Residents of Okinawa Prefecture lodged a protest with the American Consulate General in Naha city [as heard], and they also decided to protest to Japan's Foreign Ministry and Self Defense Agency.

A U.S. military spokesman said that a construction project would be carried out at Kadena Air Base to house the F-15 Eagles.

JAPANESE CP DEPUTY PROTESTS U.S. EXERCISES ON OKINAWA

LD261506Y Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, April 26, TASS--On behalf of the communist faction in the Japanese parliament, Deputy K. Senaga addressed to President Carter a message of protest against the exercises of the American marines on Okinawa, during which one of the districts of the town of Nago was shelled "by mistake". Governor K. Taira and the public circles of the prefecture demanded that an end should be put to these exercises and the war bases on Okinawa should be liquidated.

Almost six years have passed after the American administration had transferred to Japan all the rights to Okinawa, but a considerable part of the main island of the prefecture is still fenced off with barbed wire. The Third Marine Division is billeted there. Landing strips, radar installations, piers and depots of military harbours, bomb and artillery targets have been built in that part of the island.

The progressive public circles of Japan are alarmed by the practically uncontrolled use by the United States of military installations on Okinawa, which was demonstrated most patently during the recent American-South Korean Team Spirit-78 manoeuvres. Meeting the demands of the United States, the Japanese Government intends to increase its spendings on the maintenance of American war bases in Okinawa. In the meantime, the public health services and education are in a state of deep crisis due to lack of funds. The level of education and medical services is considerably lower here than in Japan as a whole.

All the attempts of the local authorities to secure the liquidation of bases and to create in the islands an effective economy remain futile, because the fate of the Okinawa population is decided in Tokyo and the ruling circles do not care for its needs and interests.

RADIO REPORTS MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN RED SQUARE

LD010716 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0650 GMT on 1 May begins live coverage of the May Day festivities from Red Square in Moscow. The announcer begins by citing several of the May Day slogans, describing the decorations around the square and commenting on the makeup of the crowd.

At 0700 GMT, Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, leads party and state leaders to the Lenin Mausoleum.

At 0701 GMT, the announcer describes the young people forming in Red Square, the choirs and the singing. Children are being lifted up toward the Soviet leaders standing on the mausoleum.

At 0707 GMT the announcer gives additional descriptions of the marchers in the square and reports that a portrait of Brezhnev is now in the center of Red Square.

At 0722 GMT Aleksandr Chakovskiy, writer and Lenin Prize winner, is interviewed. Chakoskiy expresses his feelings on this occasion and looks back over the achievements of the Soviet people. He further notes the superiortiy of the rights and freedoms of the Soviet people compared with those of the bourgeois countries. Chakovskiy praises Brezhnev's recent tour of the country's eastern regions and lauds Moscow's peace policy.

0728 GMT the announcers report on May Day celebrations in other parts of the country.

0732 GMT various foreign guests are interviewed including an unidentified woman representative of the Hungarian trade unions and an unidentified member of the Cuban national trade union committee.

At 0736 GMT Anatoliy Aleksin, Lenin Prize winner and writer, takes the mike and praises the Komsomol and Brezhnev's speech at the Komsomol congress.

At 0738 GMT the radio carries Slogan No 13 and then interviews Moscow worker Agafonov, who says a few words about his place of work.

At 0741 GMT the radio carries more singing.

At 0743 GMT the radio carries reportage from the guests' stands. Various Moscow educational establishments are represented there. Marchers are carrying a representation of the Salyut-6 space station and the two Soyuz spacecraft.

At 0747 GMT the radio cuts to recorded statements by Cosmonaut Yuriy Romanenko and Czechoslovak Cosmonaut Vladimir Remek, who speak on their successful mission.

At 0749 GMT the radio carries a recorded statement by Cosmonaut Georgiy Beregovoy, who notes that Polish and GDR cosmonauts are currently training for space flights in Zvezdnyy Gorodok, or Star City.

At 0750 GMT the radio carries more live descriptions of the scene; workers from Moscow's Timiryazevskiy Rayon are reported to be marching.

At 0752 GMT, another writer talks about the development of the Siberian oil and gas industry.

At 0754 GMT the radio carries more reportage from the guests' stand. There are more descriptions of the scene and the placards the marchers are carrying. The antiwar slogans on the banners are in connection with forthcoming Victory Day celebrations; Brezhnev's Komsomol speech is noted in this regard.

At 0759 GMT war veteran Major General (Gladkov), who was in the 18th Army, praises Brezhnev's books "Malaya Zemlya" and "Vozrozhdeniye."

At 0801 GMT the radio once again carries reportage from the guests' stand on Red Square. A Tadzhik poetess and Komsomol Prize winner is interviewed on her impressions. She mentions Brezhnev's Komsomol speech.

At 0804 GMT a woman teacher, who is a deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, is interviewed on her teaching career.

At 0808 GMT the secretary of the party committee at Moscow's Krasnyy Proletariyy plant talks about the enterprises' products and briefly notes Brezhnev's Komsomol speech.

At 0810 GMT the radio carries more music from Red Square. Slogan No 23 is broadcast.

At 0811 GMT writer Anatoliy Aleksin returns to the microphone, noting the significance of the workers and trade union movement in unifying people throughout the world; at one point he quotes Brezhnev.

At 0815 GMT a guest from West Germany, who is chairman of the Socialist German Youth organization, is interviewed. Brezhnev's forthcoming visit to the FRG is noted.

At 0817 GMT the radio carries recorded statements by a Soviet scientist on the links between science and production. Brezhnev's pronouncements in this connection during his trip to the eastern areas of the USSR are noted.

At 0821 GMT the announcer states that Comrades Brezhnev, Andropov, Grishin, Gromyko, Kirilenko, Kosygin, Kulakov, Mazurov, Pelshe, Suslov, Ustinov, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Solomentsev, Chernenko, Kapitonov, Dolgikh, Ryabov and Rusakov are present on the central rostrum of Lenin's Mausoleum.

At 0822 GMT the radio carries more music and broadcasts Slogan No 51.

At 0827 GMT writer (Valeriy Kubalayev) comes to the microphone. He talks about the Muscovites working at the Medvezhyev gas field.

At 0830 GMT the announcers report that various socialist countries, including Mongolia and Cuba, are receiving direct television pictures of the Moscow events: May Day is also being celebrated in Hanoi, Sofia, Warsaw, Berlin and Prague.

At 0833 GMT the radio carries more singing from Red Square as well as band music.

At 0838 GMT writer Anatoliy Aleksin returns to the microphone to review the significance of May Day.

At 0841 GMT, an employee at Moscow's Likhachev motor vehicle works and a Kurganskaya Oblast farm worker are interviewed; Brezhnev's statements are again mentioned.

At 0845 GMT a team leader and USSR state prize winner from Moscow's No 1 home building combine is interviewed.

At 0846 GMT the radio repeats the names of the leaders present on the Lenin Mausoleum rostrum; the names are the same as previously announced.

At 0850 GMT there is more description of the scene. Banners note the USSR's cooperation with the socialist countries.

At 0852 GMT the radio broadcasts Slogan No 4 as well as Slogans No 61 and 62.

At 0853 GMT the final columns move across Red Square. The announcer reports that yesterday in Moscow was a cold day but today is warm and sunny.

At 0855 GMT the radio reports that the march is drawing to a close. Music and crowd noises are heard once again.

At 0900 GMT the radio broadcasts Slogan No 1. The crowd begins to applaud and chant. More music and singing are heard.

At 0903 GMT the final columns pass the Lenin Mausoleum. As the march draws to a close, the woman announcer recites a poem. More singing is heard in the background and Slogan No 14 as well as two other slogans are read.

At 0906 GMT live coverage of the May Day ceremonies in Red Square concludes.

TASS Report on Celebrations

ID010924Y Moscow TASS in English 0900 GMT 1 May 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, May 1, TASS--The First of May--a festival of working-class solidarity, a festival of struggle for the happiness of working people, has arrived in the Soviet capital.

On this festive day the Soviet people reiterates its monolithic unity with Lenin's Communist Party, which is leading the country from victory to victory. The vast programme for developing the country in the current five-year period (1976-1980) and in the long range, approved by the 25th CPSU Congress, is subordinated to one goal: for the people to live better, a fuller life, more happily, for Soviet people to advance still more confidently to the bright target of communism.

Red Square is in festive attire. Beside the portraits of Marx, Engels and Lenin is the slogan "Long Live Marxism-Leninism." A panel reads "Strengthening Peace Is a Crucial Task of Our State". Soviet people are unanimously demanding a ban on the neutron bomb, on nuclear weapons tests, demanding an end to the arms race. The Soviet Union is persistently and consistently coming out for the relaxation of tension.

On the stands for honorary guests are veteran CPSU members, participants in the October Revolution, advanced workers, representatives of party, soviet and public organizations, of the armed forces, prominent scientists and cultural figures.

Among the numerous foreign guests is the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Brazilian Communist Party, Luis Carlos Prestes, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Uruguayan Communist Party, Rodney Arismendi, leaders of communist and workers' parties of other countries. Present are members of international and national youth organizations who attended the 18th Congress of the Soviet Young Communist League, just over in Moscow.

The Muscovites and guests of the capital warmly and heartily greet Leonid Brezhnev, Aleksey Kosygin and other Soviet leaders, as they rise onto the central rostrum of the Lenin Mausoleum. The Kremlin clock chimes 10 o'clock and in the matter of seconds the Red Square flares up with red banners surrounding a portrait of Lenin--the founder of the Soviet state.

Over the columns of the demonstrators is the streamer: "Workers of All Lands, Unite!" the call resounds: "May strengthen [as received] the mighty invincible alliance of the three main revolutionary forces of our time--world socialism, the international proletariat, and the national liberation movement."

Above the columns is a portrait of the general secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, whose entire life is associated with the work of the party, with the heroic labour of the Soviet people, with the struggle for the freedom and flourishing of the motherland. "There must never be war"--these words from the book Malaya Zemliya (Little Land) reflect the most cherished thoughts and aspirations of Soviet people, of all progressive mankind. The concrete proposals set forth by Leonid Brezhnev at the 18th YCL Congress, aimed at the complete halting of further quantitative and qualitative growth of arms and armed forces of states possessing a big military potential, have aroused tremendous interest around the world.

The festive demonstration lasted several hours. It proved a heart-lifting testimony of the monolithic unity of the party and the people, reiterating once again the resolve of Soviet people to successfully cope with the assignments of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, to translate into life the historical decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU.

Festive demonstrations were held today in all the towns and cities of the USSR.

18TH KOMSOMOL CONGRESS ENDS IN MOSCOW 28 APR

Foreign Delegations' Greetings

LD2814117Y Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed "Information Report on 18th All-Union Komsomol Congress"]

[Excerpts] The 18th All-Union Komsomol Congress continued work 26 April in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow. Comrades A.P. Kirilenko, G.V. Romanov, M.A. Suslov and D.F. Ustinov, members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, who were warmly greeted by those present, participated in the congress. The following delivered greetings message to the session participants: Boycho Shteryanov, first secretary of the Dimitrov Communist Youth Union; Dang Quoc Bao, first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth League Central Committee; Laszlo Marothy, first secretary of the Hungarian Communist Youth League Central Committee; Ego Krenz, first secretary of the Free German Youth Central Council (GDR), Alberto Rodriguez Arufe, secretary of the Cuban Union of Youth Communists National Committee; Nam Che Hwan, deputy chairman of the Korean Socialist League of Young Working People Central Committee; and Gladys Marin, general secretary of Chile's Communist Youth.

Pastukhov Reelected Komsomol Head

LD2814444Y Moscow TASS in English 1431 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 28, TASS--Boris Pastukhov has been re-elected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Young Communist League (Komsomol) which has a membership of about 38 million. He has been holding this post since May last. The leader of the biggest youth organization is an engineer, a graduate of Moscow's Higher Technical School. Boris Pastukhov is an alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee and a member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He is a member of the Committee of the Parliamentary Group of the USSR.

The 18th Congress of the Komsomol, working in the Kremlin, has elected the leading bodies of the Komsomol--its Central Committee and Central Auditing Commission.

At its first plenary meeting, the Central Committee elected first secretary, secretaries and Bureau of the Komsomol Central Committee. The Bureau includes the best workers and peasants, creative intellectuals and students.

Congress Address to World Youth

LD2815164Y Moscow TASS in English 1501 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 28 TASS--The 18th Congress of the Soviet Young Communist League (Komsomol) expressed confidence that the World Youth and Student Festival in Havana "will make a great contribution to intensifying the struggle of progressive youth for peace and international security, for stopping the arms race and for disarmament, against dangerous plans by reactionary circles to bring back the cold war times and develop new weapons of mass destruction." This is said in an address to the youth of the world, which was unanimously adopted by the Komsomol congress in the Kremlin today.

There is no doubt, the document says, that the forthcoming festival "will inscribe a new memorable page in the annals of the international democratic youth movement, one of the biggest public movements of the times."

In preparing for the festival young people in the Soviet Union, who are engaged in peaceful constructive labour, express their warm and undivided support for the Leninist foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet Government, a course meeting the aspirations of the peoples and youth and their hopes for a peaceful and better future.

Young people in the Soviet Union, the address says, have launched a mass emulation movement for the honourable right to represent the country's young generation at the festival. "Following their internationalist duty the Leninist Komsomol and Soviet youth organizations will do everything they can for the forthcoming festival to further strengthen cooperation between different sections of the international youth and student movement for peace and security of the peoples, for their national emancipation and social progress, for a better future for the younger generation."

Soviet youths and girls urge young people in other countries "to mark preparations for the festival and the festival itself by further strengthening solidarity with the struggle of the peoples and youth against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, and for independence and social progress."

The Soviet youth sends fraternal greetings to the Cuban young people who devote all their energies and revolutionary enthusiasm of youth to the great cause of building a new society. "We firmly believe that the 11th world festival will be a new expression of the broad international solidarity with the people and youth of Cuba, the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere," the address says.

Greetings Message to CPSU

LD281534Y Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 28, TASS--The 18th Congress of the Soviet Young Communist League (Komsomol) has assured the CPSU Central Committee, the Political Bureau and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev that "the Leninist Komsomol, all Soviet youth will always and in everything follow the precepts of the Great Lenin, the party's cause and the cause of the October Revolution and add to the glory and might of our beloved homeland by new patriotic accomplishments."

In their message of greetings to the CPSU Central Committee and Leonid Brezhnev, the congress delegates stressed that "the CPSU's constructive activities offer an inspiring example of revolutionary staunchness, perspicacity and devotion to the ideals of communism. The life of Leonid Brezhnev, an ardent communist, is for Soviet youth a model of education to the cause of the revolution, to the cause of Lenin."

Soviet youth, the message stresses, fully approves and supports the wise Leninist foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, a policy aimed at easing international tensions, stopping the arms race and banning the manufacture of mass destruction weapons. The Komsomol, being loyal to its internationalist duty and the principles of proletarian internationalism, will strengthen and develop friendship and cooperation with the youth of the countries of the socialist community, with the fraternal communist youth leagues, with all progressive youth in the world, the message says.

The Komsomol members and youth will spare no effort, the speakers at the congress said, to carry out successfully the assignments of the Tenth Five-Year Plan (1976-1980) and mark the 60th anniversary of the Komsomol by new achievements in science and technology, in studies, artistic pursuits, in military service and sports. The delegates said they would do their best to make the Eleventh World Youth and Student Festival in Cuba "a new impressive demonstration of anti-imperialist youth solidarity and strengthen the unity of all the sections of the democratic youth movement."

Congress Adopts Resolution

LD281616Y Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 28, TASS--The 18th Congress of the Soviet Komsomol has unanimously approved and fully supported the Leninist policy of the Communist Party, the many-faceted practical activity of the CPSU Central Committee, of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee headed by the outstanding leader of the party and state, of the international communist and working class movement, dedicated Marxist-Leninist Leonid Brezhnev. The delegates today adopted the resolution on the report of the YCL Central Committee. The congress of the youth organisation uniting over 37 million is working in the Kremlin now.

The resolution says that "the Komsomol will rally its ranks ever closer around the dear Communist Party, will be living up to its confidence, will be bringing up youth in accordance with Lenin's behests. Komsomol members, youths and girls will be working with ever greater inspiration and enthusiasm to implement successfully the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress."

The Komsomol is the reliable assistant and reserve of the CPSU, the congress declared.

The congress fully supported the peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, the tireless fruitful activity of the CPSU Central Committee, of the Political Bureau, of Leonid Brezhnev for the implementation of the program of further struggle for peace and international cooperation, for freedom and independence of nations that was advanced by the 25th Congress of the CPSU.

The Komsomol, the resolution says, will continue developing and strengthening revolutionary friendship, class solidarity and all-round cooperation with the young generation of socialist countries.

The congress has completely approved the principled course of the CPSU with regard to China that was determined by the 24th and 25th party congresses.

The Komsomol, the resolution stresses, will continue developing and strengthening relations and cooperation with the Marxist-Leninist young leagues of capitalist countries, with social-democratic, socialist and other political forces of youth, will be strengthening solidarity with peoples and youth of Asian, African and Latin American countries.

The congress declared that wise leadership of the Communist Party is "the source of the Komsomol's strength, of all its successes and victories."

Pastukhov Delivers Final Speech

LD281506Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Speech by Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol, on final day of the 18th Komsomol Congress in the Kremlin--live or recorded]

[Text] From the first minutes of the congress, its delegates and all Soviet youth have remained under the unfading influence of the greetings message from the CPSU Central Committee and the vivid and penetrating speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which had the significance of a program. [applause]

The fatherly word of the party and the high evaluation of the work of the Leninist Komsomol have stirred millions of young hearts to the depth of their souls. It has given new energy and enthusiasm and become a real force that mobilizes all Soviet youth to new heroic accomplishments for the glory of our homeland and in the name of the triumph of communism. [applause]

The Komsomol and all of our youth clearly realize the measure of responsibility entrusted to us by the Communist Party. And today we would like to say: We shall honorably justify this lofty trust! [applause]

The party guidance and the paternal concern by the party and state has been, is and will remain the guarantee of further successful work of the Komsomol in educating the growing generation and in drawing it actively into creating a new communist society. The participation of members and candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee in our congress was a new and vivid manifestation of this Leninist concern. [applause]

Comrades, the 18th Komsomol Congress has demonstrated with a new strength and conviction the monolithic cohesion of the multimillion member Leninist Komsomol and of all boys and girls of our great homeland around the Leninist CPSU. All the speeches, reports, letters and telegrams contained the most sincere words of gratitude addressed to the beloved party, its Central Committee, Central Committee Politburo and the tireless fighter for peace and communism--Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. [applause]

Permit me, comrades, on behalf of the 18th Komsomol Congress and of all Soviet youth, to assure the beloved Communist Party, its Central Committees, Central Committee Politburo and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev that the Komsomol members and young people of the Soviet country will always honorably continue the revolutionary cause of their fathers. The Leninist Komsomol has always been and will be the loyal and reliable assistant of the beloved Communis Party, its combat and inexhaustible reserves. [applause]

Congress Ends

LD281546Y Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 28, TASS--The 18th Congress of the Soviet Young Communist League (Komsomol) has closed here after being held in the Kremlin for four days.

The congress discussed the work done by this mass youth organization, which has a membership of about 38 million, during the four years that have passed since the 17th Komsomol Congress, which took place in 1974.

The congress was attended by Leonid Brezhnev, Aleksey Kosygin and other leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 28 April notes that "the 18th Komsomol Congress has concluded its work. At the closing ceremony the following were present and greeted with stormy and prolonged applause: Comrades Kirilenko, Kulakov, Ponomarev, Chernenko, Kapitonov, Dolgikh, Zimyanin, Ryabov and Rusakov."]

Soviet youth was represented at the congress by about five thousand delegates. Youth delegations from 107 countries were present.

Boris Pastukhov was re-elected first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee.

PRAVDA POLITICAL OBSERVER GEORGIY NATIANI DIES

LD281119 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 April 1978 publishes on Page 6 a 300-word obituary of G.N. Natiani, a PRAVDA political observer, signed by the PRAVDA Editorial Board.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 28-30 APR

LD0102002Y [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0100 GMT on 28 April informs its listeners that following the rains, warm and sunny weather has come to the Altayskiy Kray. The good weather has accelerated the preseeding work. Mechanizers have carried out spring moisture retention on 3 million hectares of land. The kholhozes and sovkhozes of the Kulunda Steppes have begun plowing.

At 0500 GMT, the radio reports that land cultivators are sowing early spring crops on the second million hectares of land in the Penzenskaya Oblast. In the Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR it is reported that 70 percent of the area sown to date has been planted in early grain crops, sugar beets and other spring crops. Heavy rains have hampered the sowing. The tending of winter wheat and barley-sown areas is proceeding. Winter graincrops have produced good shoots everywhere.

At 0700 GMT, the radio reports that more than 1 million of the 3.35 million hectares of land have been sown in spring crops in Belorussia. Spring, however, has come late to the republic. All six oblasts have begun sowing flax and planting potatoes--which will eventually occupy more than 400,000 hectares of land.

At 1100 GMT, the radio notes that "a new cold spell has somewhat delayed spring fieldwork in the European part of the USSR. All the same, the sowing campaign is spreading northwest to Pskovskaya, Novgorodskaya and other oblasts. Sowing is in progress in the central Volgograd rayons. Mass work has begun in the mid-Volga region. Sowing is now being carried out by farms of 46 oblasts, krays and autonomous republics in the RSFSR. The sowing of early spring crops has been completed in the North Caucasus, the lower Volga and the Ukraine. This work is drawing to a close in Belorussia and the central Non-Chernozem Zone. The first seed drills are out on the fields in Chitaskaya Oblast, and mechanizers of [word indistinct] rayons of Siberia and Kazakhstan are preparing the soil. The USSR Ministry of Agriculture considers that the rate of sowing now in the country is roughly on a par with that of last year. Republics of Central Asia, the North Caucasus and the Ukraine have started sowing rice; mechanizers have begun sowing work on the fields allocated to millet and buckwheat. More than 500,000 hectares have been sown with corn for grain. In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan it has already been sown; sowing of sunflower continues." The report goes on to note that "Farms of Moldavia have begun sowing corn by a new industrial cultivation technique drawn from Hungarian friends. Sowing of cotton is drawing to an end in the country. Mass work has been begun on the planting of beets, potatoes and vegetables. Specialists reckon that shoots of spring crops are developing normally. Winter crops are in good or satisfactory condition and have already been top-dressed on an area of 54 million hectares. In the republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and also in the North Caucasus, the Ukraine and Belorussia, there are leaf tube formations on the winter crops, which indicates normal plant development."

At 2300 GMT the radio informs its listeners that almost 7 million hectares of land have been sown in spring crops in the Non-Chernozem Zone. In Krasnoyarskiy Kray, the sowing plan is 60 percent completed. In the Ukraine, the radio says that sowing is proceeding rapidly on 11 million hectares of land. Work on planting corn has begun. The radio also notes that Siberian farmers have begun planting. In Novosibirskaya Oblast, 2.6 million hectares of winter fallow have been made ready for spring crops. Over 1 million hectares have been plowed.

At 0500 GMT on 29 April the radio reports that sowing has been completed on many farms in the southern part of Kazakhstan. Barley, wheat, corn and sugar beets have been sown on 3 million hectares of land. Sowing of cotton in Chimkentskaya Oblast [illegible today--it covers over 115,000 hectares. The radio also notes that the sowing of early grain and pulse crops has ended in the Ryazanskaya Oblast.

At 0700 GMT, the radio reports that grain farmers in the Altayskiy Kray have completed moisture retention on the 4 million hectares. The sowing of spring wheat in the kray is to get under way during the second 10 days of May and will occupy more than 3.5 million hectares.

At 1200 GMT, the radio that potatoes have already been planted on 400,00 hectares of land in Uzbekistan, Turkmenia and Kirghizia.

At 1445 GMT, the radio reports the sowing of grain crops has been completed on 1 million hectares of land in the Saratovskaya Oblast. The same broadcast informs its listeners that the sowing of spring barley has been completed on 3.5 million hectates of land in the Ukraine.

In the IZVESTIYA review at 1600 GMT, the radio cites the paper's correspondent in Tselinogradskaya Oblast who reports that sowing has begun in the oblast and that grain growers expect to produce over 2 million tons of wheat this year.

At 1730 GMT, the radio reports that the sowing campaign in the RSFSR is moving further and further northeast. More than 2 million hectates have been sown to spring crops in the Nonchernozem Zone. Farms of Kuban, Stavropolskiy, and Rostovskaya oblasts have completed the sowing of ear crops, have begun work in the sugarbeet planations and are sowing sunflower and fodder crops. The sowing of early spring crops has been completed on almost 400,00 hectares of Belgorodskaya Oblast. Around 1 million hectares of arable land--20 percent of the grain crop area--have been sown to early grain crops in Orenburgskaya Oblast. The report also notes that mass sowing is to begin soon in Siberia. Grain crops are to occupy an area of 5 million hectares in Altasky Kray, the RSFSR is allocating more than 1.6 million hectares to sugarbeets this year, with yield per hectare to be no less than 200 quintals of beet. The RFSFSR farm workers have pledged to obtain no less than 130 million tons of grain, 32 million tons of sugarbeets and much else from their fields this year.

At 1900 GMT, the radio reports that the sowing of early cereals has begun in Moldavia.

At 0100 GMT on 30 April, the radio reports that spring sowing is going on at full speed in the country's agricultural zones. Farmers of the Stavropolskiy Kray and the Rostovskaya Oblast have completed the sowing of early crops and have begun work on fodder crop planting. Barley, wheat, corn and sugar beets have been sown on 3 million hectares of land in southern Kazakhstan. The radio informs its listeners that cotton planing is coming to an end in Chimkentskaya Oblast. Massive sowing of the Altayskiy Kray's main crop, grain, is to begin in the third week of May.

At 0800 GMT the radio reports that Kazakh farmers began the mass sowing of rice. Almost 120,000 hectares of land have been planted with rice.

At 0850 GMT the radio reports that sowing of early grain crops in the Penzenskaya Oblast is nearly completed. This crop has been sown on more than 1 million hectares of land.

At 1100 GMT the radio informs its listeners that sowing of spring barley has been completed in the Ukraine. The crop occupies nearly 3.5 million hectares. Sowing of cereals is underway in Saratovskaya Oblast.

At 1530 GMT the radio reports that corn planting is underway in Kazakhstan. Some 2 million hectares have been devoted to corn.

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